



A
History
of Nahunta
Community
North Carolina

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A HISTORY
OF THE
NAHUNTA COMMUNITY

BY
MOZELLE R. GURLEY

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HOMEMAKERS CLUB

PREFACE

The inspiration to write the history of the Nahunta Community budded and developed when the Wayne County Extension Department asked members of each Extension Homemakers Club to write its history. Searching the Club history mushroomed into a history of the Nahunta Community. We started with the intention of doing a few copies for the Club and posterity. As we gathered information most every person we interviewed said, "I want a copy of that book when you complete it." With so much encouragement we proceeded.

This publication is the Nahunta Extension Homemakers' contribution to the Community. Many hours of work have gone into interviewing individuals, telephoning, and traveling to historical sites including old cemeteries, and old buildings. We have researched old records, such as wills, genealogical records, and other historical documents. We have searched in such books as the History of Wayne County published by the Goldsboro News Argus and the Wayne County Heritage - North Carolina. All of this we did in order to have as true and accurate a history of the Nahunta Community as possible. Even so, I am certain some noteworthy information may have been missed. If you know some facts or good human interest stories that should have been included in this publication, write it down and give it to a member of our committee in the event there is another volume or a revised publication.

It is our hope that this history arouses in you interest in and appreciation for Nahunta's past. Perhaps it will give you a challenge to preserve your own heritage.

Many thanks to the members of the Nahunta Extension Homemakers Club and to all others who have written articles or have in any way contributed information or material that made this publication possible. Thanks also to George Johnson of the Goldsboro News Argus who gave us permission to use some material from the History of Wayne County, N.C. that was applicable to Nahunta.

Much credit and many thanks go to Annette Sasser Talton, Faye Sasser Hinson and Elga Wells Nichols who did the word processing, layout, and editing. These services were vital in getting this book together.

We owe special thanks to Doris Gurley for reading early forms of this manuscript, offering valuable suggestions, and encouragement. She wrote several articles for the book, contributed photographs and provided editing assistance in the final stages of completion.

Special thanks to the members of my committee who have worked diligently and cooperatively to make this account of the Nahunta Community possible. Those members are Zora Bunn, Louise Edgerton, and Doris Gurley.

Mozelle Ricks Gurley
Chairman and Editor
September, 1990

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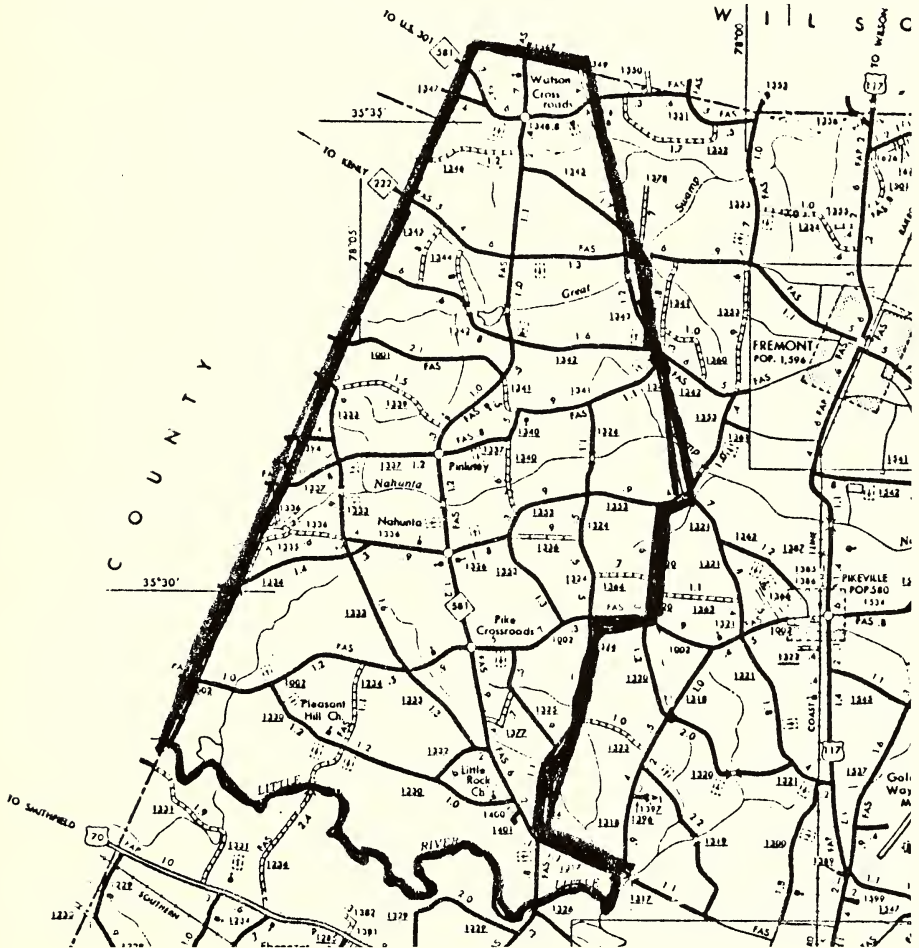
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Mozelle R. Gurley lives the history of Nahunta Community as she researches and writes its history.

HISTORY OF THE NAHUNTA COMMUNITY

Nahunta is a thriving Community encompassing the northwestern corner of Wayne County. It is about six miles west of Pikeville. Nahunta is bordered on the south by Little River, on the west by the Johnston County line, on the north by the Wilson County line and on the east by the Pikeville district. Highway 581 and SR 1002 intersect about one mile south of Nahunta School. The Nahunta Swamp runs through the area near the school. Nahunta Community encompasses the entire Nahunta School District.



FIRST INHABITANTS

The first known inhabitants of the Nahunta Community were the Tuscarora Indians, who migrated across the United States from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Coast. They came in search of food, clothing and shelter and lived for the most part in the open forest or in caves. Indian relics have been and continue to be found in almost every area of Nahunta.

Remnants of an Indian campsite remain at Nahunta Swamp a few miles from the present Nahunta School. Nearby were some Indian graves. Dr. Joseph Bunn said there was also an Indian graveyard on the Bunn farm just past Little River off State Road 1234.

The origin of the name Nahunta is not clear. Then and now Nahunta is the name of a vast swamp crossing the breadth of northern Wayne County. The swamp appears on several old maps of North Carolina. F. Roy Johnson in his book The Tuscaroras says that Narhantes was actually nine forts about a mile apart scattered across the country. The name was spelled in various ways namely Naughunty, Norhanty, Norrihunta, Narhantes and finally Nahunta.

One legend is that the wild life became scarce and the Indians left saying, "Naughunty, Naughunty here."

The late Henry Belk, long time editor of the Goldsboro News Argus said, as prosperous and progressive as Nahunta is, he did not believe that wild life was scarce here. He also referred to the name Nahunta as, "The lovely musical name that rolls sweetly off the tongue."

Even geological findings gave insight into the history of the community. Scientists tell us that the ocean once covered the area on which we live. Proof of that is the marl found in

many areas even today. Also objects such as shark's teeth, very large scallop shells and varying sizes of other shells found only at the coast were unearthed as farm ponds were dug for irrigation and fishing. Science classes from schools in Wayne and Johnston County came to visit some of the sites and look for relics.

EARLY SETTLERS

After the removal of the Indians from the area, there was a new influx of settlers who came and cleared plantations. The general movement of immigration began about 1750 to this area. Among the earliest settlers were Quaker families and Baptists. The Methodist came in 1772. The total population of the county in 1779 was 5,000 people and one-fifth of these were slaves. Among the earliest settlers of Nahunta were Pikes, Edgertons, Deans, Barnes, Bordens, Aycocks, Sassers, Peeles, Hooks, Morrisises, Davises and Pittmans.

THE PIKE FAMILY

The Pike family that was to settle much of northern Wayne County and give its name to one of the county's communities first arrived in North Carolina late in the 17th century.

Samuel Pike came to the colony from England in 1693 under the headright system. He settled in Pasquotank Precinct where he became a prominent member of the Society of Friends, familiarly known as the Quakers.

His son who bore his name was eventually to settle in the part of Dobbs County that later became Wayne County. In 1777 Samuel Pike, Jr. and his only son, Nathan, settled on the south side of Nahunta Swamp on land which he had been granted as early as 1763. The land, granted by the King of England, was said to have included as much as 2,500 to 3,000 acres. It was possibly one of the largest grants given in this country.

Samuel Pike died before 1797.

Nathan Pike was a member of the Militia during the Revolutionary War and probably saw service during 1781 when Lord Cornwallis' Army

marched through Wayne County. A number of rear guard actions were fought during that march as well as a skirmish at Peacock's Bridge over Nahunta Swamp. The bridge was near the Pike Plantation.

Pike was a merchant as well as a planter and he operated a large tavern- "graciously built after the English style" - which was located about three-quarters of a mile east of the present town of Pikeville. The tavern was located at a heavily traveled point where the New Bern and Fayetteville stage coach road crossed a north-south road.

Pike also operated a shop and a trading post on this site, and his business served as the area mail drop. Mail was received and dispatched through Pike's shop by the regular stagecoach runs. Pike handled the mail and he also maintained stables for the exchange of stage coach horses. His tavern became a regular overnight stop for the stage.

Although he was a shrewd businessman, Nathan Pike's Quaker upbringing forebade his owning slaves, so he depended upon the labor of a number of indigent children who were bound to him and of several persons taken from jail where they had been imprisoned for indebtedness.

From 1793 to 1835 Pike sold more than 2,000 acres of his holdings.

The descendants of Nathan Pike settled all across the northern end of Wayne County. Some made their homes in the Nahunta community. Pike's Crossroads at the intersection of Highway 581 and State Road 1002 is named for them.

Mark and Jonathan Pike, sons of Nathan, were wardens of the poor in Wayne County. They were appointed in 1833 and 1834, respectively; and Jonathan was chairman in 1834 when the country's first poor house was built at Stoney Hill.

Nathan Pike died in 1844 leaving a large estate and an established business name. His wife, Rachel, died in 1850. Their descendants still live and work in Wayne County.

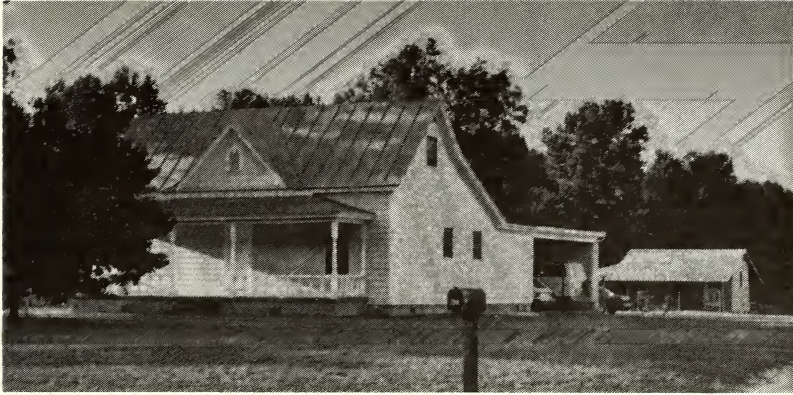
EDGERTONS IN NORTHERN WAYNE COUNTY 1767

Thomas Edgerton, Jr. married Sarah Cox, daughter of Richard Cox, in 1767 and settled in the northern part of the County at a place called Nahunta. He and Sarah had two sons, William and Nathan Edgerton. Both sons reared large families and some of their descendants



Original Nathan Edgerton Home

still live in the Nahunta Community. Nathan Edgerton, great grandfather of Louise Edgerton, lived in the house known to many as the Flowers House. The house was located on State Road 1336 just east of Edgerton Cemetery. It was recently purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cogdell. The couple moved the house about a mile west of Highway 581 and remodeled it. The kitchen was joined to the house by a breezeway which was



Bought & Remodeled by Kenneth and Carol Cogdell

customary in the early days. That breezeway is now a lovely family room. A carport has been added and the house painted Williamsburg blue.

DEANS HOUSE DATES BACK TO EARLY 1800'S

At the intersection of N.C. 581 and State Road 1317 there stands a white frame house that has housed generations of the Deans family since 1844. It stands on property that has been held by members of the Deans family since 1801.

From that family have come at least two members who served Wayne County in public office.

George Deans was the first to settle in that part of northwestern Wayne County on a tract of land granted to him by the state, under the signature of N.C. Governor B. Williams in 1801. The tract consisted of 25 acres.



When the elder Deans died in 1848, his 168 acres were divided into three approximately equal parts and passed on to his sons, Thomas Anderson Deans (1811-1876), James Deans, and Benjamin Deans. At this time the Deans land adjoined land belonging to Britton Scott.

Thomas Anderson Deans increased his holdings to 950 acres but he built his home, a small frame structure on part of the original Deans land. It had two large rooms with a stairway to two rooms above. Only one of those was plastered. The other was fully floored with 10-inch wide board and had exposed roof rafters. It also had exposed roof sheathing of 21-inch boards.

The mortise joists and studs were also exposed and there was a decorative wainscotting of horizontal boards around the perimeter of the room about two feet high.

The small house had one chimney that had a large fireplace on the first floor and another above it on the second floor. The latter was probably used as a kitchen which is indicated by the open accessibility to the hearth and the cooking utensils that still hang there.

The large living room on the first floor had a mantel and wainscoting around the entire room, both of which were secured by wooden pegs. There were exposed beams overhead. During the years that the house has sheltered Deans descendants it has been added onto many times and is now a rambling structure of many rooms.

When Thomas A. Deans died in 1876, his holdings were divided among his six children with the larger share going to the eldest son, William A. Deans (1840-1896). The court appointed Willie Becton Fort, Commissioner, to oversee the division.

The Deans holdings then adjoined lands held by the Crumpler and Strickland families as well as those held by Britton Scott and they extended to the south as far as the Little River. A small family cemetery lies just east of the house where Thomas A. Deans is buried with his second wife, Edith (1824-1901), his son, Woodard Deans, and his grandson, Thomas A. Deans (1881-1922).

There are many reminders of the past at the Lancaster home. Local historians, though unable to determine an actual construction date, feel that the barn is probably as old as the house. Farming tools from another era when mechanization was still a dream of very few men rest in the Lancaster barn. Those include a wood reaper, an old cotton planter, old jugs, an old corn sheller and another harvester whose exact use is so long forgotten, its name has been lost.

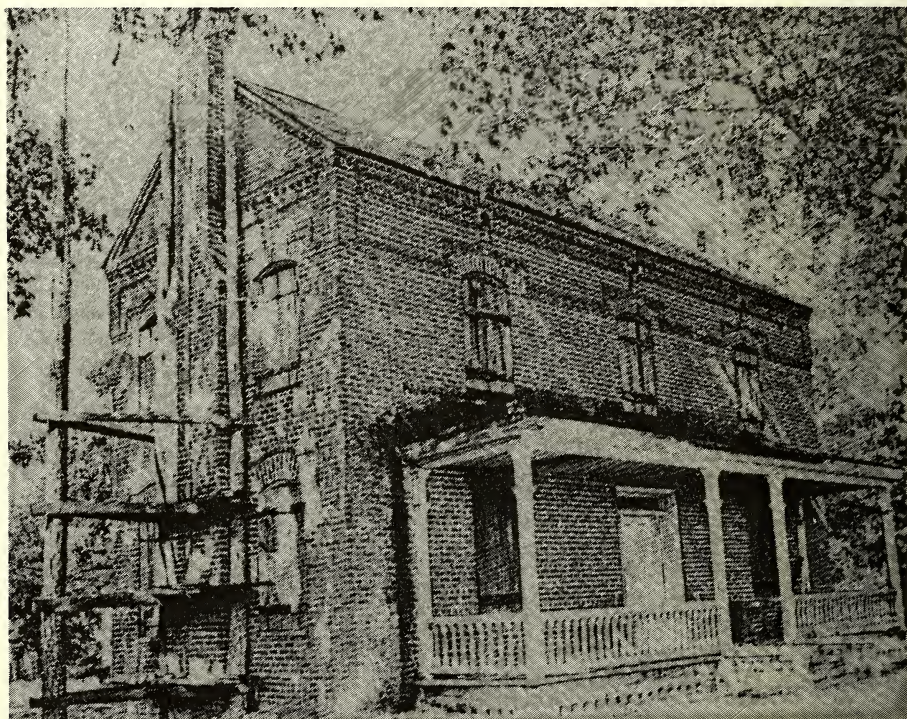
Also in the possession of the Lancaster family is a certificate of appointment of election to the office of County Commissioner in

1868 of Thomas A. Deans. The certificate was issued by the Charleston, S.C. Headquarters of the Military Anderson Deans who served from 1872-1878.

Deans ran against Capt. J. B. Edgerton for the county office. Both men had served in one of the Wayne County regiments during the Civil War.

Sheriff Deans lived in the family house as a boy and for a period until the death of his father when the property was inherited by his brother.

JOHN A. BARNES



EARLY BRICK HOME — This two-story brick home was built by John A. Barnes in the late 1860s and completed in 1870. It was constructed of handmade brick that were made by Barnes' brother, Andrew Jackson on his neighboring farm. The house is now owned and being restored by Carl Mumford and Jim Mumford, Barnes' grandsons.

John A. Barnes was born in 1844. He was the seventh child of John C. and Susan Copeland Barnes. He died in 1916.

John A. Barnes spent his entire life as a farmer, amassing more than 1,000 acres of land in northwestern Wayne County which was divided at his death into farms for each of his eleven children. He had married Annie Piety Godwin.

As a farmer, John A. Barnes was known as a progressive. He was the first to own a MacCormack mowing machine in that community which lies north of Pinkney; and he was the first in that area to install a farm drain system, which is still in good condition and used by a small group of Primitive Baptists. Barnes was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church.

He served with Company K, 27th North Carolina Regiment in the Civil War.

About the time of the Battle at Richmond in 1864, Barnes was excused from battle to serve in a nursing capacity at Windsor Hospital. The order came from General Robert E. Lee himself.

When the War was over, Barnes walked back to Wayne County and once again began to farm. It was after that experience that he built his home.

Barnes said he wanted a house that would last and that is exactly what he built. His was the only brick farm house in the neighborhood and his friends affectionately called him "Brick House Tom Barnes."

Surrounding the home which sits in a grove of oak trees is a series of log outbuildings. They include smokehouses, barns and a stable.

**JOSIAH SASSER HOUSE:
SITE OF FIRST COURT HOUSE**



John Sasser received a land grant from King George II in 1755. It was for only ninety acres but formed the nucleus for a very large farm. The grant was located on the Little River near Pearson's Bridge. The property borders the Nahunta District at Little River. As one drives south on Highway 581 after leaving Nahunta, and turns left onto Claridge State Nursery Road (often called State Nursery Road), the Josiah Sasser house is the second house on the left.

The grant says it was located in Johnston County. This would be right for 1755. Later it was Dobbs County. Then in 1779 it became Wayne County. It was 1800, however, before the new dividing line between Wayne and Johnston was formally established. The first publication of the new county lines is shown on Price and Strother's new map entitled, "This First Actual Survey of the State of N.C."

John Sasser died and his land had passed to his son, Josiah, by 1779. The Sasser plantation was chosen as the site to hold the first court as it was described as the oldest and largest clearing then in Wayne County.

Josiah's wife was Elizabeth Bryan, daughter of William Bryan of Johnston County and grandfather of Needham Bryan of Snowfield, Bertie County. Needham Bryan was the father of Rachel Bryan, who married William Whitfield II of Whitehall, Seven Springs.

The first court held in Wayne County after its formation was held at Josiah Sasser's home in 1780. Josiah died before the second term came around so the court was transferred to James Herring's house, also on the Little River. Josiah left his home and plantation to his son, John and his wife Elizabeth, so by 1782 and 1783, court was resumed at the Sasser house.

The house, known as the Josiah Sasser house, is still standing today near Pearson's Bridge (Little River Bridge). Though very old, it is in good condition. It has plastered walls, wood ceilings, and four fireplaces. The mantle from the first floor rooms was removed about 1930 by the owner at that time.

The main block of the house is three stories only one room deep; a one-story dining room and kitchen are attached. At one time the kitchen was not attached as it is today. The front porch has been changed.

About fifty years ago the porch reached the full width of the front of the house. The cornice or fresco is very handsome and in good condition as well as the windows. Three rooms have wainscot paneling put together with pegs. There is a large living room on the right, (dining room and one bedroom upstairs).

LIFE ON THE PLANTATION

Life was hard for those adventurous souls that blazed the way into new territory where everything from building houses to making clothes was the responsibility of the family. Everyone in the family, young and old, had work to do. Hard though it was, there was compensation - the American dream of independence and self-sufficiency.

Life was hard for the adventurous souls that first came to our area. Clearing the land and building homes were the first tasks. They had to rely on their own resources for both the necessities and the simple pleasures of life.

After forests were cleared and homes were built the chief work was plant and animal farming. Hogs and cattle were raised to provide food for the family. The main crops were wheat, corn, oats, cotton and tobacco. The grain was ground in hand mills.

Boys learned early how to use an ax and rifle. They knew how to hunt and trap, prepare the skins and furs of animals for use and preserve the meat for food. They helped with the plowing, planting and caring for the domestic animals. When fall came, they were gathering the corn, butchering the hogs, piling wood and repairing the home.

The mother had the work of the house and helped care for the chickens and other animals. She had to do the cooking, canning, preserving, washing, spinning, knitting and weaving. She made quilts for bed cover and made soap. She cared for the sick and helped with the planting and harvesting when needed. The girls helped their mothers.

Hog killings were the time when hogs were butchered and pork was prepared, cured and

stored in the smokehouse or sometimes in stands of lard for use throughout the year.

Every family had a large vegetable garden and orchard. They raised what they ate. Fruit was preserved and kept in big stone jars covered with a lid. Corn meal was used in some way for every meal as mush, pone, hoe cake, johnny cake, hominy or corn bread.

Clothing, shoes and hats were made at home. Home grown cotton, wood, leather, and the skins and fur of animals were used.



Cotton and Tobacco
Two Major Crops

Shopping was done by the seasons of winter and spring. Coffee, sugar and salt were the main foods purchased. Sugar was bought in hundred-pound bags. It took one and one-half hours to drive to Goldsboro on a horse and buggy. The buggy was left on the street and the horse or mule was put in a stall at the livery stable.

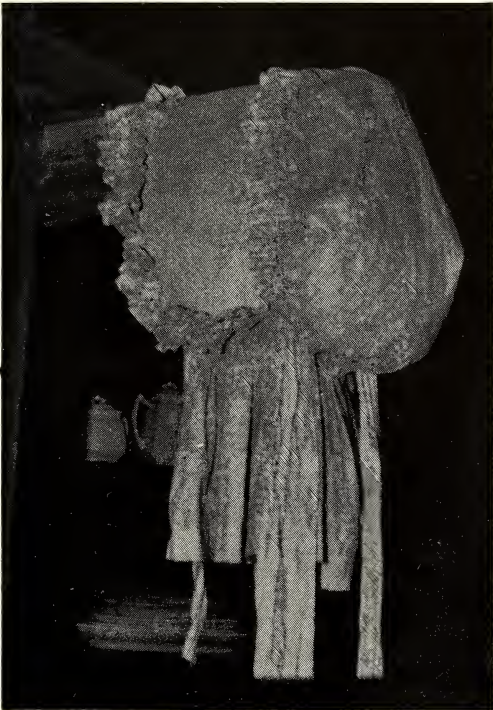
There was little time for idleness, but parents and children enjoyed the evenings when they gathered about the fireplace which was the center of family life. Around it strangers were welcomed, songs were sung, and hopes renewed.

Corn shuckings were a source of entertainment. Neighbors gathered in the evening at

one's home and the men shucked corn to feed to the cows and mules while the women popped corn and made candy for refreshments.

The families were reverent and Sunday was strictly observed. On Sunday they dressed in their best clothes and attended church. They sometimes carried food and had dinner on the ground with fellowship.

Homemade candles and lamps lighted the homes at night until Carbide and Delco Plants were available. Electricity came in the 1920's for the more populated areas. Telephones came later. Frank Smith and Frank Peele had the first home phones in the area.



Bonnet often made by women and girls

Roads were few. The first travel was by neighborhood paths on horse back. As roads were widened, horse drawn wagons and buggies were used. Doctors made house calls on horse and buggy. About 1900 the Model T Ford came out.

By 1850 Wayne County had its share of churches and schools. There

was continual growth and progress up to the Civil War (1861). At the beginning of the War this area escaped much of the horror of it. In the latter part Sherman's Army came through and

destroyed much property causing delay and setback in progress. At the end of the war there was not enough money to feed and clothe the people or pay debts. So many young men had been killed in the War that insufficient manpower prevented speedy recovery. But come back we did eventually.

In the 1930's there were radios but no televisions. There was no penicillin, polio shots, or antibiotics. No frozen food, nylon or dacron. Radar, fluorescent lights, zippers, credit cards and ballpoint pens were unknown.

Time sharing meant togetherness, not computers or condominiums; a chap meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

Pantyhose and drip-dry clothes were unknown, as were icemakers, dish washers, clothes dryers and freezers as well as electric blankets.

Hawaii and Alaska were not States.

Cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was something you drank and pot was something in which one cooked food.

There were 5 and 10 cent stores where one could buy things for 5 or 10 cents. A Chevrolet Coupe cost \$659 - but who could afford that in 1940. A pity, since gas was only 11 cents per gallon.

We have faced the Great Depression, riots across the nation, the atom bomb for war and nuclear energy for peace, birth of the United Nations, Social Security and medicare, the jet age and space age.

We have seen the building of the federal interstate road system, orbiting the globe in space and finally, men on the moon and more. We truly do live in a land where dreams come true.

FORMER BUSINESSES

The needs of the people and the mode of transportation to a great extent dictate the businesses of the Community. General stores for years dotted the Nahunta Community at almost every crossroads and in between for the convenience of the people.

At the turn of the century cotton became the main money crop; hence, cotton gins became numerous. The gins removed the seeds, cleaned the cotton and baled it in 500 pound bales for market. Formerly seeds were picked out by hand and it took a person a full day to pick the seeds from a pound of fiber. In came the boll weevil about the 1920's destroying cotton crops and dreams of prosperity. By the late 1950's no cotton was grown in this area and the cotton gins sat idle.

Local lumber mills or sawmills became popular when people began cutting timber into lumber for houses or other purposes. Trees were cut and carried to the mill by horses, ox carts, or later by trucks. The logs were cut with circular or band saws into whatever size and shape were needed. There were several sawmills in the Nahunta area.

LISTING OF FORMER BUSINESSES

William A. Deans	Gen. Store & Fertilizer
Bertie Pierce	Gen. Store, Cotton Gin and Sawmill
Frank Smith	Gen. Store, Cotton Gin and Sawmill
Alex Aycock	Gen. Store, Cotton Gin and Sawmill

LISTING OF FORMER BUSINESSES (CONT.)

Jessie Bailey	Cotton Gin
Eli Sasser	Grist Mill, Feed
	Mill and Sawmill
Phil Peacock	Grist Mill
Jasper Overman	Gen. Store &
	Blacksmith Shop
Hardy Sullivan	Blacksmith Shop
Charlie Sullivan	Blacksmith Shop
Bagley Morris	General Store &
	Sawmill
Abram Branch	Syrup Mill
Carlton Aycock	General Store
Mamie Batten	General Store
Joe Bunn	General Store
Aldon Gurley	General Store
Molton Gurley	General Store
Leland Howard	General Store
John Mitchell	General Store
Theron Peacock	General Store
Elbert Scott	General Store
Lloyd Strickland	General Store
Claude Sullivan	General Store
Hilton Winders	General Store
Cecil Thomas	General Store
Clifton Howell	General Store
Jimmy Mitchell	General Store
Bill Kearney	General Store
Perry Morris	Pinkney General
	Store
Earl Edgerton	Pinkney Store
Barney Edgerton	Pinkney Post
	Office
A. Worth Aycock	Dairy
Jake Aycock	Dairy
Raymond Aycock	Dairy
Russell & Molton Gurley	Dairy
John Elmore	Poultry Farm
Ophelia Aycock	Ceramics
ICI Americas Inc	Agricultural
	Research Center
Claude Sullivan	Outdoor Theater
Lawrence Radford	Garage
John Sullivan	Sullivan's
	Carpets

PRESENT BUSINESSES

Progress means growth and necessitates change and the progressive Nahunta Community has experienced growth and change. Proof of that statement can be observed simply by looking at the present and former businesses. Some of the old ones no longer exist since they are no longer needed. New businesses have replaced them to meet the needs of the present generation. We no longer have to drive to the city to find a beauty shop or buy a car or even have one repaired. We have these conveniences and more right here in our Community.

LISTING OF PRESENT BUSINESSES

Milo Pierce	Farm Center and Fertilizer Plant
NOR-AM Chemical Co.	Agri. Chemical Research Center
Oland Peele & Sons	Nahunta Farm Sausage and Hog Farm
Mack Pierce	Nahunta Pork Center and Nahunta Hog Inc.
Raymond Aycock	Beef Cattle Farm
J. R. Deans	Beef Cattle Farm
R. A. Sasser	Sheep Farm
Fred Goetze	Long Horn Beef Cattle and Tractor/Truck Repair
Earl and Linda Brock	Turkey Farm
James Coston	Turkey Farm
Mike and Lisa Jones	Turkey Farm
David Peele	Turkey Farm
Newton Bartlett	Chicken Farm
Pat Edgerton	Chicken Farm
Randy Howell	Chicken Farm
Billy Tillman	Chicken Farm
Larry Sasser	Chicken Farm

LISTING OF PRESENT BUSINESSES - CONT.

David Sasser	BeeKeeper
Carlton Aycock	Aycock's Nursery and Tree Farm
William B. (Bill) Hare	Hare Enterprises
Jesse Hawley	Used Cars
Graham Justice	Used Cars
Ed Radford	Used Cars
Bill Kelly	Kelly's Truck Garage
JoVance Whaley	Whaley's Transmission
Wayne Aycock	Aycock Trucking Company
Rex Mooring	Fremont Tire Service
Ralph & Nina Holland	Nahunta Grill
T. Gurganus/D. Lewis	Nahunta Grocery
Otis Mitchell	Pinkney Grocery
George R. Pittman	General Store
Harry F. Hinson	Victory Paint & Wallpaper
Calvin Davis	Calvin's Jewelry and Repair
Louvene Berry	Louvene's Beauty Shop
Margaret Hollowell	Charm Beauty Shop
Joan Sullivan	Joan's Beauty Shop
Olive Whaley	Nahunta Beauty Salon
Pearl Whaley	Styles Galore
Joe and Jeanette Baker	J & J Cabinet Shop
Vernon Hawley	Hawley's Cabinet Shop
Douglas Gurley	Gurley's Septic Tank Service
Alton "Doby" Howell	Howell's Stables
Ed Radford	Wayne County Speedway
Edna Bisette/Gail Barnes	Ceramics-By-U

LISTING OF PRESENT BUSINESSES - CONT.

Bill Edwards	Pinkney Exotic Birds
Harold Richardson	Richardson Const. Company
Woody Peele	Peele Const. Co.
R. A. Sasser	Tax Service
Gerald Johnson	Gerald Johnson Grass Cutting Service
Grifton Justice	Justice Electri- cal Service

NAHUNTA COMMUNITY LEADERS

MILFORD AYCOCK

Milford Aycock was born in the Nahunta Community the son of Barnes Aycock and Sally Ann Hooks Aycock, March 17, 1884. He married Eugenia Coor on April 26, 1903. The couple had three children.

Mr. Milford, as he was affectionately called, was a prominent and civic-minded citizen. He served on the Nahunta School Board for 40 years and for 37 of those years he was the chairman. He was honored by the Nahunta Community Club in November of 1953 for his devotion and service to the Community. In appreciation of his service, he was presented a gold watch by the people of the community. The inscription on the back of the watch read, "To Milford Aycock for services rendered to Nahunta School and community, 1910-1953."



Milford Aycock, center, receives a gold watch for his service of 37 years on the Nahunta School Board. L to R: Sen. Hardy Talton; Clee Davis, Chairman of Nahunta School Board; Aycock, R. S. Proctor, Supt. of Wayne County Schools; and Mrs. Eugenia Aycock, wife

Mr. Milford served his county in the same capable and effective manner in which he served his community. For many years he was a member of the Wayne County Board of Elections and 30 of those years he was secretary for this group.

Mr. Milford was supported in his devotion to his community by his good wife, "Miss Genie," as the neighbors called her. She was a trail blazer, a pioneer, and a woman with foresight. At a time when men thought a woman's place was in the home, Mrs. Aycock called the women of the neighborhood to a meeting. They organized for the purpose of assisting and supporting the teachers in the new consolidated school at Nahunta. Twelve ladies responded, an almost unheard of event at that time.

The Aycocks not only promoted education in the Community, but also provided it for their own three children. Edmond, who graduated from North Carolina State University with a degree in agriculture, was vice-president of Wachovia Bank in Raleigh and manager of the agricultural loan department. He served on the Board of Commissioners for Wake County and was chairman of that body. At present he is retired.

The two daughters attended Atlantic Christian College and both were teachers. Nell was an elementary teacher and did her first teaching in the Nahunta School. She then taught at Belfast. Dorothy taught biology and science in the Charlotte City Schools for 29 years and 5 years at U.N.C. Charlotte. She is now retired.

Mr. Milford died August 8, 1956.

It is the foresight and support of families such as the Aycocks that have made the Nahunta Community the progressive and prosperous Community it is today.

PEARL PARKER PIERCE

Pearl Parker Pierce is the daughter of John Parker and Addie Reynolds Parker. She was born in Ingold in Sampson County, N.C. on September 21, 1897, and lived there for six months before moving with her family to Clinton, N.C.



Mrs. Pierce came to Goldsboro in 1921. Here she met and married Albert Pierce in 1925. The couple made their home at Nahunta in 1928.

Mrs. Pierce was a teacher by profession and taught in the school at Saulston in Wayne County. With her ability and personality, she soon rose to principal of the school. She was principal at the time the schools first began to consolidate in Wayne County. This presented no problem

for the young, vibrant Mrs. Pierce. She was a firm, upright disciplinarian with a pleasant friendly disposition much respected and much loved. Mrs. Pierce ceased to teach after her marriage, but returned to the classroom during World War II when teachers were scarce and taught the seventh grade at Nahunta School. She then taught a few years at Goldsboro Christian School.

Mrs. Pierce served on the Wayne County Board of Education for six years beginning in the early forties. During her term she saw the principal's cottage, teacherage, and gymnasium built at Nahunta School.

Mrs. Pierce joined the Nahunta Home Demonstration Club in 1928 and was very active in club work. On the local level she held the positions of president, secretary, and treasurer at various times. She worked on many committees during the construction of the club building, which was completed in 1949. She worked her way up through the ranks serving as president of the county club and the district club. She was the state president in 1946 and treasurer of the Jane. S. McKimmon Loan Fund for five years.

Mrs. Pierce joined the Methodist Church in Clinton when she was nine years old. When she moved to Nahunta, she joined the Nahunta Friends Church. She was devoted to her church serving as clerk of monthly meeting, clerk of ministry and counsel and president of the Missionary Society. She was pianist and Sunday School teacher for 40 years.

Mrs. Pierce is not able to be very active now but is still that pleasant, distinguished, knowledgeable person she always was.

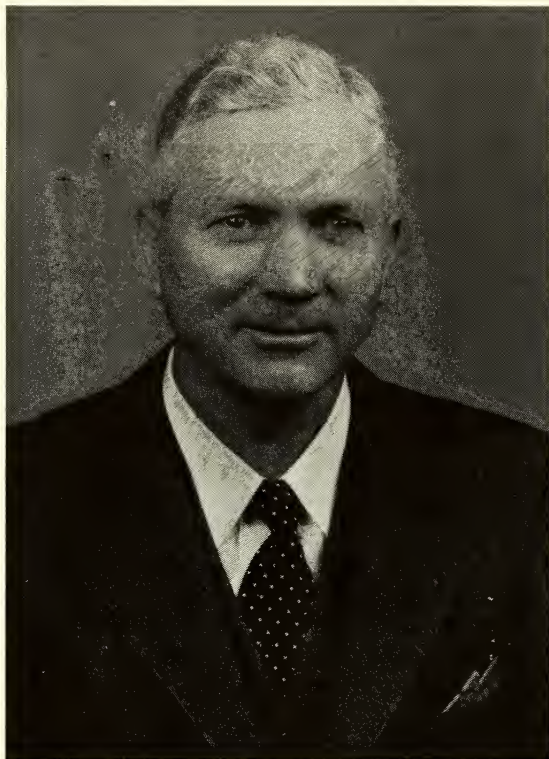
After her husband's death in 1967, Mrs. Pierce sold her home at Nahunta. She now resides in Goldsboro.

HARDY TALTON

Hardy Talton was born in the Nahunta Community of Wayne County on August 18, 1900, the fifth of eight children born to Mack Duffie Talton and Rebecca Pike Talton. He was educated in the Gurley School, a one-room school on Highway 581 near his home, and in Kenly High School.

In 1921 he married his childhood sweetheart, Mildred Roberts, and had one adopted daughter, Mary Ellen Talton King. Mr. and Mrs. Talton enjoyed a long and happy marriage of 61 years.

Through his entire life "Mr. Hardy," as he was affectionately called by friends, was responsible for many local, county, and statewide activities in all areas including politics, religion, education, and agriculture.



Hardy Talton

At the state level, Mr. Talton served in the North Carolina Legislature including three terms in the Senate and one term in the House of Representatives. In the Senate, Mr. Talton sponsored a bill to establish Technical Institutions in North Carolina.

Mr. Talton was a strong advocate of Christian Education. A regular attendee of his church, he served in many

capacities. He was a member of the Board of Trustees and of the Body of Deacons at Pleasant Grove Church. He taught a Sunday School Class for 38 years. Mr. Talton was founder of the Wayne County Board of Sunday School Associations and president for many years. He contributed much to Mount Olive College serving as a trustee. Later an endowment fund was established in his name.

Mr. Talton was always in the lead doing anything the local school needed. He spearheaded the move to light the ballfield at Nahunta School. It was Mr. Talton who led in the completion of the interior of the school gymnasium. He, with a group of local citizens, mixed and poured the cement floor on either side of the playing floor in the gymnasium. They also built the bleachers. Whatever the school needs were, Mr. Talton was informed and he worked to meet those needs. Mr. Talton was a member of the Nahunta School Board and when the Nahunta High School consolidated with other local high schools to form the Charles B. Aycock High School, Mr. Talton was elected chairman of that Board.

The football field at Charles B. Aycock was named the "Hardy Talton Field" in his honor. He was awarded the Outstanding Education Award in 1976 by the Charles B. Aycock Memorial Commission. He helped many young people find a way to finance schooling beyond high school. He loaned money to some and went on a note with others that they might borrow what they needed. He never ceased in his efforts to help young people become the best person they could become.

Mr. Talton was Sales Supervisor of the Goldsboro Tobacco Market for 15 years. He was a member of the Farm Bureau and the North Carolina State Grange. He was Master of the Nahunta Grange for many years and in October, 1972, he was the recipient of the "Granger of the Year" award. Mr. Talton was the "Good Neighbor" that everyone loved. He was constantly sharing the vegetables from his farm and the pastries from his bakery with friends. He was a great humanitarian who enjoyed doing things for others.

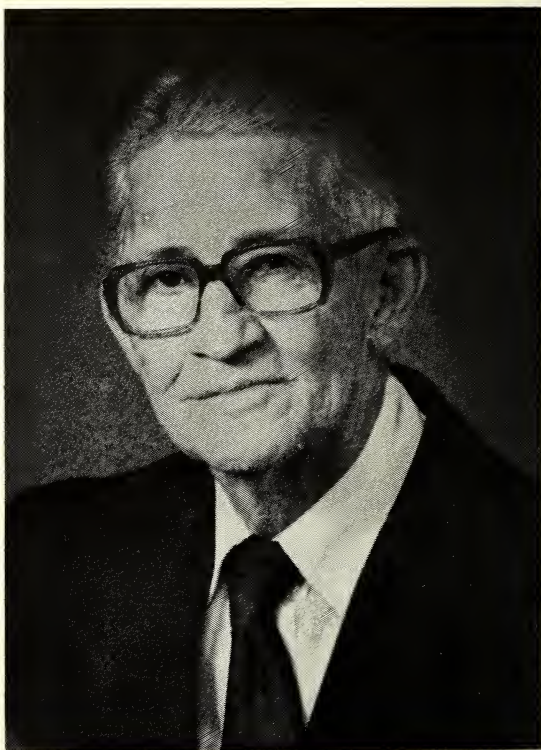
He was a good counselor for people in trouble and helped find new meaning for their lives. Words of encouragement were often spoken to the discouraged. Many young people came to him for advice and help in securing jobs. Mr. Talton

received many honors and awards not yet mentioned here such as: being honored by the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees and by the State Democratic Executive Committee on May 9, 1966, presented by the Governor Kerr Scott. Mr. Talton was the first citizen of Wayne County to be inducted into the Wayne County Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1985. His picture hangs in the gallery at Wayne Center along with other leaders inducted since that year.

Before his death on December 7, 1982, Mr. Talton served many people in many areas of life. He gave of himself to others and he will be long remembered.

ABNER WORTH AYCOCK

Abner Worth Aycock was born in the Nahunta Community of Wayne County on January 15, 1903, to Alex Aycock and Ella Edgerton Aycock. The third of six children, he grew up on a farm. In 1926 he married Margaret W. Fleetwood. The couple has two children: Sally Melba Kirby, a teacher in the Wayne County Schools, and Abner Worth Aycock, Jr., a welder.



"A. Worth," as his friends called him, began his education at Edgewood School near his home. Later Edgewood was consolidated with Nahunta. He attended Pikeville High School and then and then furthered his education at Duke University. After three years at Duke, A. Worth returned home to manage his farm. Later he began a dairy operation.

Like his Uncle Milford Aycock, A. Worth was civic-minded and became involved in serving his fellowman. He was also a member of the Farm Bureau and Nahunta Friends Church.

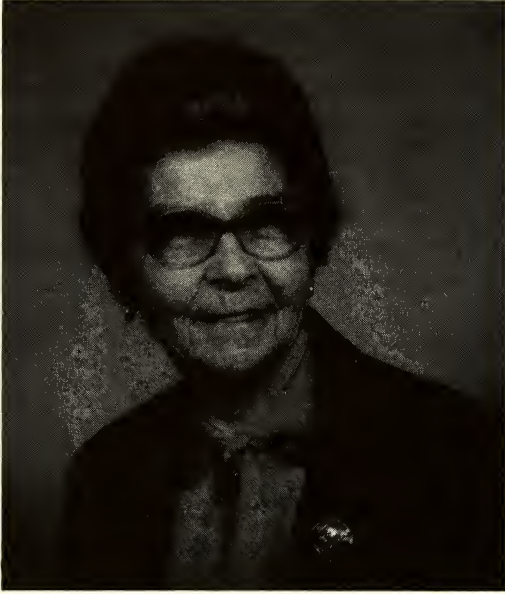
A. Worth was a humanitarian interested in doing things for others. He reared a foster son and encouraged many other youth, even assisting some financially. A. Worth worked for the betterment of education for all people. He was a man of dedication and compassion. He died on January 15, 1988.

At his death a scholarship fund was established in his memory at Mount Olive College.

ZORA WOODALL BUNN

Zora Woodall Bunn was born in the Brodgen Community of Johnston County on August 19, 1908, to Millard Woodall and Hettie Bell Davis Woodall. The second of nine children, she grew up on a farm. In 1928 she married Clarence S. Bunn and came to live in Wayne County. She and Mr. Bunn began their farming operation as share croppers. In 1938 they bought their first small farm and grew tobacco, cotton, corn, and soybeans. Over the years they acquired more farm land.

Mrs. Bunn assisted with the farming and gardening and did the housework including canning, freezing and sewing for her family. For ten years she attended the Wayne County Curb Market. She was active in PTA and served on the



Zora W. Bunn

local school board for ten years. She was a 4-H leader and all five children were county 4-H project winners, four were state project winners, and one was a national project winner. The family was also active in the North Carolina Grange for a number of years.

Mrs. Bunn has been active in all phases of Extension Homemakers work serving as presi-

dent of the local club four times, president of the County Council of Extension Homemakers, district president and chairman of the State Education Committee. She is a recipient of the Extension Homemakers Leadership award and is listed in Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans. In 1956 she was honored by the Goldsboro News Argus as "Rural Woman of the Year."

In 1977 she was a delegate, representing the Southeastern District of Extension Homemakers, to the International Meeting of the Associated Country Women of the World in Nairobi, Kenya in Africa.

Mrs. Bunn is active in the Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church where she taught an

adult Sunday School Class for 33 years. The Church honored her by having a Zora Bunn Day and naming the class for her that she had taught for so many years.

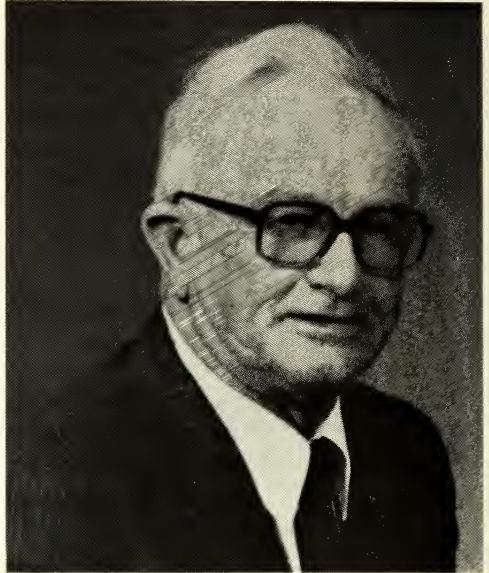
When Mrs. Bunn's husband became ill in 1974, she began managing the farm operations. In 1980 she was a member of the agricultural delegation sent as Goodwill Ambassadors to The People's Republic of China. The delegation met with the U.S. Agricultural Attache at the U.S. Embassy in Peking, Manila, and the Phillippines. They toured farming areas and visited farming communes.

The Bunns' five children assisted with the farming and housework. They took advantage of the opportunities offered them in organizations and education as follows: Clarence Donald Bunn, who is a retired agricultural extension agent of Swain County and is living in Bryson City, N.C.; Dr. Joseph M. Bunn, professor of Agricultural Engineering at Clemson University in Clemson, S.C.; and Betty Bunn Lynch, a teacher in Pikeville Elementary school in Wayne County School System, is a resident of Nahunta. Shelba Bunn Buchanan, also a teacher in the Wayne County School System, teaches special achievers at Grantham School. She lives at Sleepy Creek. Col. David Buster Bunn of Nahunta is Recruitment and Retention Manager with the North Carolina National Guard.

Mrs. Bunn continues to be active in the community, in the Senior Citizens Club, the Extension Homemakers Club, her church and the Wayne County Family Y. She still travels and has an optimistic outlook on life. Through reading she keeps abreast of, and interested in, current affairs. She recently returned from a cruise and tour of Alaska. Zora Woodall Bunn is a remarkable lady.

OLAND F. PEELE

Oland F. Peele, the third child of Frank and Effie Peele, was born on September 23, 1920, in the Nahunta Community on the same farm where he and his family still reside. Oland married Jean Dudley in 1950 and they have two children, Anthony and Gregory.



A f t e r graduation from Nahunta High School and one year's education at North Carolina State University, Oland returned home to pursue a career in agriculture. This interest, first stimulated at the age of ten through the 4-H club work, was the beginning of his farming and livestock operation, an operation which later led to the founding of Nahunta Farm Sausage, where he and his sons are actively involved today.

A few of Oland's services include serving as a 4-H leader, grange member, FFA supporter, and Sunday School Superintendent. He actively worked in education and became a member of the local school board and Wayne Memorial Hospital Board.

Oland's innovative ideas and foresight are outstanding. Under his able guidance, the Wayne County Livestock Development Association and Wayne County Agricultural Fair were founded in

1949. Serving as president of this organization and fair manager for 37 years, Oland has positively influenced countless numbers of people, young and old alike.

Oland has seen his operation grow from a meager 4-H club project consisting of one pig into a highly diversified farm which includes a nationally-respected pure bred swine herd and a thriving retail pork business, as well as traditional crops.

For Oland Peele, farming is more than a livelihood; it is a way of life. Those who know him best realize that Oland is a man of dedication, a man of vision, and a man of compassion. Because of these qualities he was inducted into the Wayne County Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1986.

EDUCATION

No public schools existed at Nahunta or even in North Carolina in the very early years. An appropriation of 6000 pounds was earmarked for education in 1746, but it was used for other purposes. Although an act in 1839 created the public school system, no taxes to support the schools were levied until after 1850. During these years some of the more prosperous families employed teachers who taught their children at home. Though there were some private academies and schools in the state, such education was for a limited number. By 1850 Wayne County had its share of schools; and up to the Civil War, there was continual growth and progress. A lull in education came during the Civil War years. Then at the close of the War revival of the schools began.

Nahunta citizens through the years have sought to provide the best possible educational opportunities for their children. Their philosophy has been that of Charles Brantley Aycock, that each child should realize a sense of accomplishment and pride and have the opportunity to "burgeon all that is within him."

The physical facilities have constantly been improved to provide greater health, safety, comfort, and an overall good educational environment for staff and students.

By 1882 the Quaker settlers had built the Nahunta Academy across the road from the present school. Mrs. Ell Edgerton and her sister Laura attended that academy. When it burned, it was rebuilt on the site of the present school in front of the Friends Church. It was a wooden structure with six rooms. In the years that followed, numerous small elementary schools dotted the area. Eventually all of these consolidated to form the Nahunta High School.

Those schools known to consolidate into Nahunta High School are as follows:

ONE-ROOM ONE-TEACHER SCHOOLS

The Sasser School, dating back to 1884, was a one-room one-teacher school in the area of Sasser's Mill.

The Memorial School, also a one-room one-teacher school, was located near Memorial Church a few miles west of Fremont off State Road 1342.

The Pleasant Hill School, dating back to 1892, was a one-room one-teacher school. It was located off State Road 1330 on the site presently occupied by the Jimmy Bunn home and the Pleasant Hill Church Cemetery.

The Oak Plains School, dating back to 1870, was a one-room one-teacher school. Once located near the present Nahunta Recreation Center, this school is still standing. It was moved from Nahunta to the Charles B. Aycock Birthplace and is a memorial to Governor Aycock and the work he did while Governor and afterwards to improve education for all children in North Carolina.

Edgewood School, another one-room one-teacher school, was located off State Road 1324 near where E. L. Aycock now lives. Edgewood and Oak Plains Schools had consolidated into Nahunta School prior to 1917.

TWO-ROOM TWO-TEACHER SCHOOLS

The two-room two-teacher schools were Pinkney, Gurley, and Bunn Schools. The Pinkney School dated back to 1892 and was located off Highway 581 about one mile north of Nahunta. The Pinkney School joined Nahunta in 1924. The Gurley School was located off Highway 581 across

the road from Ray Hill's home near Western Wayne Estates. The Gurley School and the Pleasant Hill School consolidated to form a three-room three-teacher School named Cogdell School. This School was located off State Road 1330 on the present site of Rudolph Sasser's home. A school bus transported students to Cogdell School. The bus was drawn by a team of horses; however, the body of the bus looked much like the early motor buses. Mr. Andrew Gurley drove that bus. Strong feelings arose against uniting those schools and the Cogdell School was burned in 1917. The students were then transported to Nahunta School.

Largest and finest of those early schools was Aycock School, which dated back to 1873 but ran only one month of the year. It was a five-room five-teacher school built of brick. The Aycock School was located at the southeast corner at the intersection of Highways 581 and 222. The patrons of Aycock School tried to keep their school, but finally in 1932 it was consolidated with Nahunta School. Some men were so bitter about the consolidation that they sent their children to Pikeville School and forbade their wives to even set foot in Nahunta School.

SCHOOLS FOR THE BLACKS

Prior to 1966 separate schools were maintained for black and white students. The earliest of these schools was Bunn School in the Nahunta Community located on the east side of Highway 581 just south of Pike's Crossroads. The building still stands between the old Smith Store and Jasper Sasser's home. It was a one-room one-teacher school and the black children of the community started their education there.

In 1845 a new and larger Bunn School was built. The new school was a three-room, two-teacher school. It was built on land deeded to

the committee of the common schools, as they were then called, by Jake Bunn for five dollars and other considerations.

This Bunn School was located on the west side of State Road 1333 one-half mile north of the Pikeville-Princeton Road (SR 1002). Mrs. Grover McKinney taught grades four through seven in that school.

The new Bunn School contained grades one through seven. When students completed grade seven, they then attended high schools at Friendship School in Pikeville. Eventually Friendship School burned and was replaced by Pikeville Training School.

In 1960 a large brick structure was built for all black students in northern Wayne County. It contained grades one through twelve. This new school was named Norwayne. Norwayne became an integrated school in 1968.

NAHUNTA HIGH SCHOOL

Nahunta High School was built in 1915. Prior to that year, students attending high



Sixth and Seventh Grades at Pinkney School in 1923 - Front: Zilphia Snipes; 1st row; Leslie Snipes, Ruth Snipes, Bertha Lee, Rosella Sasser and teacher, Annie Butler; 2nd row: Hugh Sasser, Reuben Sasser, Fannie Pittman; 3rd row: Stacy Fulghum, Sally Pittman, Howell Sasser, 4th row; Silas Lane, Edgar Gaylor, Carl Futrell

school went to boarding schools in Pikeville, Fremont, Smithfield, or some other school of their choice. The first graduating class at Nahunta High School was in 1923 with four students graduating. They were Sallie Lee Peele, Albert Smith, Priscilla Stuckey and J. Clee Davis. The following year, 1924, Ralph Edgerton was the only graduating senior, while seven graduated in 1925.



The original Nahunta School was a wooden structure. A brick building was built in 1927. In 1934 the old Aycock School was torn down.

Consolidated Nahunta School

WPA (Works Public Administration) workers cleaned the brick and those brick were used to add four rooms to the Nahunta building - two rooms at each end of the building.



Gymnasium

The school lunchroom was built in 1948 with funds contributed by Nahunta School parents and patrons. In 1949 the gymnasium was started. County funds were not sufficient to complete it, so the people of the community again rallied to the need - raising funds, contributing labor and materials to complete the building.

When the brick school was built, the front part of the frame structure was moved one fourth of a mile behind the school and was used for a teacherage. The school principal also had an apartment in the teacherage. Prior to 1927 teachers had sought room and board in homes of students and community leaders. In 1947 the old wooden teacherage was replaced with a large brick building located on the southwest corner of the campus on Highway 581. Teachers were required, at that time, to live in the community. As time passed and rules changed, the teacherage became obsolete and was sold about 1969 to Glenn and Coleen Sasser.

After the new teacherage was built, the old teacherage became home for the agriculture teacher and served the high school as the agriculture building. The Nahunta Farmers Club, sponsored by the Agriculture Department, had evening meetings in the building. After the high school became a part of Charles B. Aycock School, the old teacherage was torn down about 1967.

A seven-room brick cottage was built between the teacherage and the school about 1948 for the school principal and his family. Mr. Bill Bryson was the first principal to live in this new home. As transportation improved, principals, like teachers, commuted to work. Since a principal's home was no longer needed as such, it was sold at public auction on January 7, 1976. Troy Overbee bought the building and moved it to a site near Pikeville.

Nahunta continued as a high school until 1961.



NAHUNTA HIGH SCHOOL

There were 16 graduating seniors in that last class at Nahunta High School as follows: Janice Anderson, Steve Aycock, Shirley Baker, Susie Baker, Lloyd Bedford, Braxton Bell, Doris Parnell, Lillian Davis, Iris Ferrell, Jerome Hooks. Also Sue Horne, J. Ray Mooring, Don Morris, Albert Pierce, Linda Sasser and Betsy Thomas. Eugene Morris was principal. The school had 16 teachers, nine in elementary school and seven in high school with fourteen courses offered. A highlight for the senior class was the trip to Washington and New York. The first class to make the combined trip was the class of 1957. Seniors raised money to help defray expenses of their trip by selling magazines and other items, helping harvest peanuts and corn, and tying tobacco. The Beta Club members attended the State Meeting in Asheville. Doris Gurley was Senior Class and Beta Club Advisor.

Darwin Williams coached both girls' and boys' basketball teams with Eva Wooten as assistant girls' coach. Elizabeth Morris and Linda Pittman were co-captains for the girls' team while Harry Sasser and Linwood Radford were co-captains for the boy's team. Quoting from Nahunta's 1961 annual, "Nahunta has always been outstanding in athletics. For the past four years we have been county champions in baseball. Last year the team had a long season, since it was county, district and regional winners. In the eastern finals they lost to Lucama, thus placing them in the top four in Class A." Still quoting from the school's last annual, "Since 1949 Nahunta boys' and girls' teams have won 11 trophies in basketball. Of these the girls have



Nahunta Girls Basketball Team in 1957: L-R: Front Row Jeannetta Edgerton, Mary Ann Howell, Judy Stuckey, Janice Mayo, Margaret Berry, Lou Ann Aycock, Lois Edgerton, Sandra Crawford; Back Row: N.T. Holland-Manager, Judith Overman, Betty Howell, Annette Sasser, Markie Smith, Jane Howell, Daylon Howell, Ann Strickland, Inez Sasser, Helene Lewis, Charles Boykin, Coach.

won two county championships and one runner-up, while the boys have won four county championships and four runner-ups. In 1941 the girls



Baseball Team

First row: William Barnes, Billy Rae Holland, Glenn Sasser, Elbert Richardson, John Sullivan, Jimmy Thomas, Coach Charles Boykin. Second row: Bobby Bunn, Kay Pittman, Raymond Radford, Harold Lewis, Marlon Talton, Jimmy Bunn.

won county championship. Both boys and girls won county championship in 1960." These accomplishments have been due to the hustling of a well-balanced team and a community which backs sports.

In the fall of 1961 the high school became a part of the new consolidated Charles B. Aycock High School at Pikeville, made up of students from Nahunta, Pikeville, Eureka, Belfast, and Fremont.

In 1970 Norwayne became a junior high school for all black and white students of northern Wayne County.

In the fall of 1966 the seventh and eighth grades were moved to Pikeville and in 1970, those grades became a part of Norwayne Junior High School. Nahunta School then became an elementary school with grades one through six.

A history of Nahunta School would not be complete without paying tribute to Mr. Milford Aycock. Mr. Aycock served on the Nahunta School Board for 40 years with 37 years as chairman. He always had interest in, and concern for, Nahunta School. Much of the school's progress was due to the efforts of Mr. Aycock.

Principals of the school are as follows:

Coleen Garris	1917-1918
Talmage Edgerton	1918-1920
L. M. Johnson	1920-1922
Earl Pearson	1922-1923
Melvin Robinson	1923-1924
Ben A. Scott	1924-1927
Earl Edgerton	1927-1929
C. R. Lewis	1929-1946
Bill Bryson	1946-1949
Preston Hollowell	1949-1955
Harry Beard	1955-1957
David Green	1957-1960
Eugene Morris	1960-1961

Nahunta Elementary School Principals

M. C. Holland	1961-1962
Newman Lewis	1962-1966
Clara Hines	1966-1969
Ray Watson (administrator)	1969-1970
Tempie Jones (bldg. principal)	1969-1970
Edward Howard (administrator)	1970-1971
Tempie Jones (bldg. principal)	1970-1971
Tempie Jones	1971-1985
Joan Smiley	1985-1990
Randolph "Bud" King	1990-

NAHUNTA SCHOOL: ITS INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM, FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

Through the years a balanced, flexible program has been provided for the maximum development of each student. This has been ac-

complished through using a variety of teaching strategies and evaluations. New educational trends, techniques, materials, and organizational patterns have been implemented by the faculty. Strengths of the instructional program include (1) self-contained classrooms, (2) North Carolina Primary Reading Program with assistants for grades one through three, (3) special programs for exceptional children, (4) specialized personnel services such as a psychologist, nurse, social worker, and guidance counselor, (5) a variety of supplementary materials and equipment, (6) special personnel in areas of art, music, speech, physical education, and media, (7) curriculum guides to provide a pattern for an orderly and sequential instructional program, (8) educational field trips.

Nahunta has piloted a number of instructional programs. An example is the Open Court Reading program which was selected by Wayne County Schools to be used in elementary classrooms. Visitors came from many parts of the state to observe this program in action.

Nahunta students have scored well on standardized achievement tests. In most cases students score above the national average and at or above scores of other schools in Wayne County.

Efforts are made to provide a variety of available supplementary materials and equipment for teachers and students to enhance learning. The school through local fund-raisers such as Fall Festivals and Picture Drives has provided many extra materials, equipment, and opportunities for learning.

Many Nahunta School students have received special recognition through the years. In 1987 a seven-member team of students made up of fourth and fifth grade students participated in the "Odyssey of the Mind" program. This is an international program based on a creative problem-solving approach in learning. This team

won district and state competition and advanced to world competition which was held at the University of Maryland.

Nahunta Elementary School was initially accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1972. It was reaccredited in 1982. In preparation an intensive self-study was done before each accreditation by the staff. All program areas were studied and reviewed in depth to provide a guide for establishing where the school was and envisioning where it needed to be. These efforts resulted in a better understanding of and commitment to the best educational program for the students. Many parents and community leaders worked with the staff in this prestigious accomplishment.

IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOL PLANT

Many improvements were made to the school plant and facilities to meet requirements for accreditation. Parts of the building that had not been used since the high school was moved were renovated for instructional purposes. The main building was completely rewired to meet electrical needs, ceilings were all lowered, and fluorescent lights installed to provide adequate lighting. Many other improvements were done to provide necessary facilities for a variety of instructional programs as well as for the health, safety, and comfort of students and staff. The campus was landscaped to insure separate parking areas for buses and cars. The parent-teacher organization provided funds for and helped to plant shrubbery, make playground equipment, and other improvements. A sense of pride in the school plant and facilities was shown by staff, students and the community.

Strong parental support and help in maintaining a well-organized school has been a great asset to Nahunta School. Parents have taken the

initiative in sponsoring projects to make money to be used for school needs. In addition, they give their time to help implement school improvements. The seven-member Local School Advisory Council is made up of interested parents. They assist the principal, teachers, and students by encouraging development of policies and procedures to promote the general welfare of students.

Other community leaders have also given much time and support to the staff and students by becoming actively involved in activities and projects.

Transportation has played a vital role in the successful functioning of Nahunta School. About 90 percent of the students travel on school-operated buses. One of the outstanding strengths of transportation safety for the past 19 years has been the use of adult bus drivers. Since the beginning of the 1971-1972 school year, the school has consistently operated an adult bus-driving program. Dependable adults of the community have helped to ensure the safety of the students. These drivers have also volunteered many hours of their time helping in many capacities through the years. One driver, Mary Lee Sasser Fulghum, began with the original adult drivers in 1971 and has continued to drive the same route for 19 years. Carol Aycok Richardson, another original driver, has continued to serve either as a regular driver or substitute driver. She presently is a teacher's assistant in the school and a substitute driver. The school has been proud of its adult bus drivers. These dedicated people have been a tremendous asset in operating a safe and orderly transportation program.

Many students from Nahunta have continued their education, some even at the doctoral level. Many returned or settled in the community and continue to contribute to the quality of

life here. Others make valuable contributions to society in areas throughout the state and nation.

Nahunta School, as we know it at the present location, will soon terminate. Projections are that classes at the present building will be held for the last year in the 1990-1991 school term. Even now the new building is under construction at Peacock's Crossroads at the intersection of Highway 1002 and State Road 1324, only a couple of miles from the present building. This new school will remain an elementary school for Nahunta, Pikeville and Belfast elementary students in grades kindergarten through grade 5. Beginning in the fall of 1990 Norwayne became a middle school housing all students of northern Wayne County in grades 6, 7, and 8. Students in grades 9 through 12 attend Charles B. Aycock High School.

As situations and needs change, so does society arise to meet the new challenges.

"The Present Crisis" written in 1844 by James Russell Lowell expresses that thought:

**"NEW OCCASIONS TEACH NEW DUTIES; TIME
MAKES ANCIENT GOOD UNCOUTH; THEY MUST
UPWARD STILL, AND ONWARD, WHO WOULD
KEEP ABREAST OF TRUTH."**

RELIGION

The churches dotted about over the community have from early times played a large part in the lives of the Nahunta people. Among the earliest settlers were some Quaker families, now called the Society of Friends. The Baptists came early as did the Methodists in 1772. The descendants of these families still live in the area.

MEMORIAL PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Memorial Primitive Baptist Church is located in northern Wayne County on State Road 1342 about two miles from Fremont. The road is named Memorial Church Road.



Memorial Primitive Baptist Church

The Church was organized October 7, 1831, with 18 charter members. These interested persons met regularly at the site and conducted services.

John Aycock and son donated a two-acre site for the Church building. Some additional land was purchased to increase the site to five acres.

Until 1987 there were both white and black members of the church. Mrs. Ceca Exum, who died this year, was the last black member.

Mr. Walter Barnes, Jr., the present Elder, has pastored the church since 1973. Other Elders who have pastored the church are Jimmy Roberts, Christopher Hooks, Nathan Davis, and Paul Lamb.

Although the membership is small, services are held regularly the first Saturday and Sunday of each month. Quarterly meetings called Union Meetings are held for communion and worship. Yearly meetings called associational meetings are observed the fifth weekend in October when all eight churches in the Black Creek Association join together for good preaching, fellowship, and a spread lunch. Two Elders may be preaching at the same time, one inside the building and the other on the outside. Both communion and foot washing are observed.

No musical instruments are found in a Primitive Baptist Church, but good acapella singing is a part of the service and enjoyed by members and visitors.

Primitive Baptist ministers are not salaried; they support themselves and their families by following a vocation. They are given contributions and gifts sometimes. Collections are not taken. A collection plate is placed on the table and anyone who desires to give goes by and drops his collection in the plate.

The Primitive Baptist members regularly attend services and love and serve God and their fellowman.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

All of the early settlers were Quakers, who attended a church known as Contentnea Meeting just north of Nahunta Swamp on what is now State Road 1537. The Contentnea Meeting was later moved to the northwestern Wayne County Community of Nahunta where it became known as Nahunta Meeting. The group met in the home of Matthew Pike near Peacock's Crossroads before building a meeting-house. In 1860 Matthew Pike and Michael Edgerton were appointed to select a place for a meetinghouse. The Civil War seemed to cause a delay in this matter. Finally, in 1866 Matthew Pike gave land to the Nahunta Monthly Meeting for a church building site. For over 15 years the Friends meetings were held in this building which is still standing. It is located just east of Pike's Cemetery on the opposite side of the road.

In June, 1881, the meeting appointed a building committee to secure funds, select a site, and build a new meetinghouse. The next



Early Nahunta Friends Church,
the first on the present location.

month Nathan T. and Mary Edgerton deeded to the meeting a two-acre lot on which the present meeting house and parsonage stand. The meeting house was completed in 1882. The Sunday School rooms were added in 1935 and dedicated early the next year. The stained-glass windows were dedicated on Mother's Day 1942, having just been installed. During the years 1942 and 1943, new electric light fixtures were installed, a gift from Hubert and Caroline Stephenson.

In the early years the Nahunta Monthly Meeting was served by visiting ministers. S. Louisa Bridgers was named as Nahunta's first pastor in 1900. The following ministers have served as pastors:

Whitford Edgerton	Howard B. Yow
Martha J. Woody	Waldo Woody, 1941-44
J. Robert Parker	Lela Simpson, 1945
Herbert W. Reynolds	Luther McPherson, 1946-47
Stella Garrison	Homer Barker, 1948
D. Virgil Pike	Lela S. Garner, 1949-51
J. Addison Branson	Buford Frye, 1957-59
Clifton C. Pearson	W. Guthrie, 1959-1963
Henry McKinley	Adlie Barefoot, 1963-66
Clifton C. Pearson	Jack Caughron, 1966-86
Ben H. Millikan	Dale Matthews, 1986-89
Elbert D. Newlin	Steve Lawrence, 1989-
	Present

Through the years, many outstanding improvements have been made to keep the meeting-house comfortable and attractive. A heating system was added in 1950 and a fire escape in 1953. The old floor was replaced with hardwood flooring in 1955, carpet was installed in the sanctuary in 1958 and new pews were added in 1960. Acoustical ceiling was placed in the sanctuary in 1961 and a new piano was given in memory of Caroline Stephenson.

The parsonage, built in 1930, was renovated in 1963.

Nahunta Meeting, previously being pastored jointly with Oakland Friends Meeting, stepped out in faith with a full-time pastor, Adlie Barefoot, in 1964-65.



Present Nahunta Friends Church

With growth came the need for more Sunday School classroom space, and another building program began in 1969 with James Ray Johnson as chairman of the building committee. The oldest church wing was remodeled and enlarged. A wing containing four Sunday School rooms, a pastor's study, and a ladies' lounge was added to the south end of the building. The parsonage and the church were painted beige with brown trim. An organ was donated by the L. M. Pierce family.

In 1977 a fellowship hall was built. Many hours of work were given by the chairman, James Ray Johnson, and other members. This 30' X 60' room on the north end of the building is fre-

quently used for a Sunday School class, fellowship, youth meetings and other church activities. Also two scout troops, two 4-H groups, and a community senior citizen group meet here.

The membership shows an increased interest in missions and contributes annually to foreign missions through Friends United Meeting and to North Carolina Missions in Mexico. They have faith-promise giving which goes entirely to missions. Nine members have been on work camps at mission stations in Mexico and Jamaica.

Four youth groups meet regularly as do two missionary societies. High school seniors are honored annually with a covered dish meal at which time each is presented a Bible. Bible School is held each year. In 1989, 20 youth and leaders attended a National Youth Quake in Denver, Colorado. Through the years the men's and ladies' softball teams have excelled.

A men's choir was organized under the leadership of Elizabeth Caughron. Later this group combined with the regular choir. Annually church members have family camp at Quaker Lake in the fall seeking fellowship and inspiration.

In 1987 the church was recognized by N.C. Grange as the church of the year.

The old parsonage was given to retiring pastor, Jack Caughron, who had it moved about a mile north of Pinkney. The Church members replaced it with a new brick building with Dale Matthews moving into it in July, 1986.

Music continues to be a vital part of the Church program. Special music is furnished each Sunday by the choir made up of about 25 individuals. Each fifth Sunday is dedicated to special music. Christmas and Easter cantatas are presented. In December, 1989, choir director Beth

Peele directed the Christmas musical for the ten-year Nahunta School reunion. Many members participated in the program.

Children's Church is held each Sunday with children leaving for that right after the special music in the regular service.

Change and growth have taken place in the physical plant and in the spiritual lives of members. Frequent study courses, family nights, fellowship meals, and youth ministry teams keep the members growing in knowledge of Christ and in favor of God and man. Members continue to accept challenges for the future.

UNION GROVE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church, presently located between Pinkney and Fremont on State Road 1341, is one of the oldest churches in Wayne County. The exact date of organization is not known. Some thought it was organized in 1874. Actually it was organized prior to that date. The minutes of Little Rock Free Will Baptist Church, organized May 15, 1871, state that assisting in their organization was Jesse Rose of Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Wayne County.

Also, an abstract of the minutes of the General Conference of the Free Will Baptist Association in the Mount Olive College Library reads that "In 1868 the Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church of Wayne County was received and entered into the association." Churches were usually organized a few months or a few years before requesting membership in the association. While the exact date of organization is not certain, Union Grove Church was organized and active in 1868.

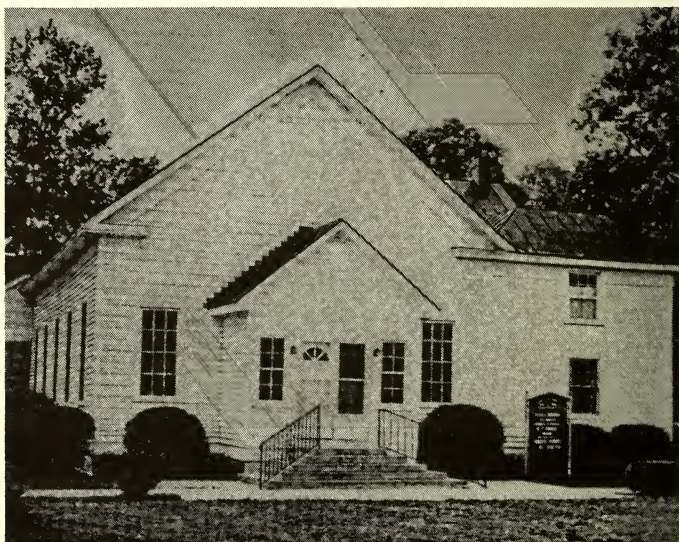
The minutes further state "In 1873 the General Conference of the Free Will Baptist Association met at Union Grove Church in Wayne County."

The minutes of the Second Annual Session of the Western Conference show that Union Grove came to that body from the Eastern Conference in 1888. The Western Conference was organized in 1887.

The first location of Union Grove Church was Aycok's Crossing at the intersection of Hwy. 581 and Memorial Church Road. This building still stands and is now called Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church by the black members who worship there.

The Rev. Daniel Davis is believed to have been the minister who helped to organize this group of Free Will Baptists who called themselves Union Grove.

T h e
Rev. J. H.
Worley was
pastor of
the first
Church and
h e l p e d
formulate
plans to
build the
p r e s e n t
Union Grove
C h u r c h .
Mr. Worley
lived in
Pine Level
at that
time. As
he came and



First Union Grove Free Will
Baptist Church on Present Location

went bringing spiritual food to the forefathers and lingering after services to fellowship with these earlier Christians, a vision of a new church with more adequate facilities developed. In a short time this vision began to materialize.

Mr. Exum Edgerton, father of the late Maggie Edgerton Hooks (Mrs. Fred), offered to give a corner of his field to be used for the new Church building and grounds for as long as the Church wished to use it. Other members joined him by giving timber and labor. Those remembered by many as being active in the building of the new Church were Jesse Rose and sons Hardy, Bob, and Charlie - who meant much to the Church. Eli Sasser and son, W. Cleve Sasser, made a great contribution to the building of the Church and Cleve (or Eli) later served as Church clerk for many years. Jim Morris and sons John, Jimmie, and Perry - were faithful in helping to provide for the new Church as well as many others. Rev. Worley, a carpenter as well as a pastor, did much of the construction. Other members donated timber and labor.

The Sunday school was organized about 1900 by Mr. Jasper S. Overman and Mrs. Sarah Morris. At first only the children attended Sunday School. Mrs. Morris said she was the teacher and Mr. Overman was the superintendent. The Church membership at that time was about 147.

In 1920 during Rev. Howell's pastorate, the Women's Auxiliary was organized. At that time it was called the Ladies Aid Society. The ladies organized a Little Worker's League for children and in 1940 began what is believed to be the earliest Daily Vacation Bible School in the state.

During the Rev. James Evans' pastorate, the need for additional Sunday School rooms was realized and in 1932 five new rooms were added at a cost of \$1,200. Also the Free Will Baptist

League was organized under his leadership. This organization was most helpful in directing the lives of the youth for about 10 years.

Another building program was launched in 1946 when more Sunday School rooms and a choir loft were added. Again Church members did much of the work, holding the cost to approximately \$1,000. It was during this time that the first homecoming service was held and the Sunday School rooms were dedicated. Homecomings continue to be held annually the last Sunday in September.

In 1950 under the guiding hand of the Rev. N. Bruce Barrow the Church went from quarter-time services to half-time and for the first time the Church adopted a budget. Also a new heating system was installed.

While the Rev. R. N. Hinnant was pastor, the sanctuary of the Church was renovated at a cost of less than \$1,000. This was completed in 1955.

A building program was launched in 1964 in which an educational building was provided. This building was annexed to the sanctuary. It was completed at a cost \$20,000 with much labor donated. Included in this project was a baptistery given by Mrs. Ethel Lamm in memory of her brother, Robert Atkinson. also shrubbery was planted around the building.

Other gifts to the Church in honor or memory of loved ones have included the following: pulpit furniture in memory of Frank Hinnant by Frank Hinnant, Jr.; piano, carillon, and new carpet in memory of Sally Morris (Mrs. Joe) by her son, Dr. Thomas R. Morris; the ladies lounge by Louise Edgerton and Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Thompson in memory of Betty Edgerton (Mrs. Ernest).

Since 1966 the entire structure has been brick veneered and stained-glass windows installed throughout the Church.

A major renovation project was conducted in 1983 which included the addition of a porch, enlargement of the vestibule and the addition of new ceiling lights and carpet in the sanctuary.



Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church after several stages of remodeling

Membership growth and comfort provided the need for the building expansion.

The Church membership is now 224 and the Sunday School membership is 162. The Church continues its quarterly meetings and prayer meetings.

Eight men from Union grove Church have been licensed to preach the gospel. They are Leslie Davis, Jasper S. Overman, Rommie Mitchell, A. P. Lee, Joe Morris, C. H. Overman, Jr., Bobby Jackson, and Billy Gene Outland.

The Lord has done great things for and through the wonderful people of Union Grove Free

Will Baptist Church. It is the desire of members to continue to serve God humbly and faithfully and to live and serve their fellowmen.

Pastors of Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church are:

	J. H. Worley	1941	L. Johnson
1900	Tray Phillips	1947	J. Albert Harris
1909	W. Everette	1949	R. B. Spencer
1910	W. Howell	1950	Bruce Barrow
1913	W. M. Howell	1954	B. N. Hinnant
1914	R. F. Pittman	1961	Albert Coates
1918	W. M. Howell	1964	R. P. Harris
1921	N. Lancaster	1972	Bruce James
1926	E. Postum	1973	John Melancon
1927	C. Johnson	1975	Bobby Futrell
1928	Billy Ferrell	1977	Bobby Jones
1931	Cyrus Johnson	1981	Bob Harbor
1932	James Evans	1983	C. Ray Taylor
1940	M. E. Tyson	1987	Billy Yawn (present)

LITTLE ROCK CHURCH

The Little Rock Disciples of Christ was instituted in the year 1880 with the group meeting in the home of the founder Lewis Warren. Warren, along with William Henry Wiggs and John Hobbs, were early staunch leaders and charter members. The growing group of members continued to meet in the Warren home until a church building was constructed.

A plot of land near the corner of Highway 581 and State Road 1330 was given to the group for a church building site by Mrs. Laura Smith. (Great Grandmother of Russell and Molton Gurley and Elizabeth Gurley Overman).

The first church building and two succeeding ones were built of logs with rocks used as the pillars. The church was named Warren Chapel after its most ardent leader and founder.



Little Rock Disciples of Christ

As the Church membership increased and more space was needed, a frame structure was built. Again members met in the homes while the building was being constructed. Upon completion of this building the Church was renamed "The Little Rock Church of Christ."

In 1947 Elder C. I. Barnes was elected to pastor the Church. He served for 23 years and it was during these years and under his leadership that the present cement block building was constructed in 1958. Neighborhood residents cooperated with Little Rock members giving donations on the new building, and Dan Lancaster gave trees that members cut for lumber to be used in the new Church.

In 1966 stained-glass windows were placed in the building and bathrooms were added. New pews and carpet were added in 1975. Also additional land was purchased from Frances Edgerton to be used for a parking area. This addition

provided for safer parking and enhanced the looks of the building. The pulpit was remodeled and new light fixtures and a heating-cooling system were installed in 1985. Through the years members have made improvements in the building and grounds for comfort and attractive appearance.

The first pastor was Elder Edward Hill of Kinston. The following Elders have served as pastors:

Tom Davis	Sam Lofton
Emmitt Parker	Lee Shephard
Leamon Ray	Kid Wiley
John Artis, Faison	Mike King
John Artis, Pikeville	

The present pastor is Elder Ronnie Lee Hood, who was called in November of 1972.

In 1984 the Church members celebrated their one hundred fourth anniversary with Elder Emory Peterson in charge of the service.

Members have ardently worked to meet growth needs both physical and spiritual, and a challenge for the future continues.

UNION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The first Union Grove Church in the Nahunta Community was organized by a group of Free Will Baptists who established their Church at the



Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church

intersection of Highway 581 and State Road 1342. The Reverend Daniel Davis is believed to be the minister who helped organize the group prior to 1868. That group of Free Will Baptists decided to move to another location off State Road 1341 about two miles east of Pinkney in 1885. The original building was then used by a group of Missionary Baptists who considered naming their church for a pastor, Pat Peterson, but decided to retain the name Union Grove. It then became Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Since the church history was not written and the charter members are not living, much of the early church history is not known. It is

believed that the Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1874. Where they worshipped prior to that date is not known. It was possibly in the home of some charter member.

The members wanted land for a cemetery. Mrs. Coleen Taylor said that the land was purchased from Walton Aycock for the cemetery.

The Reverend Joseph Braswell of Rocky Mount is the present pastor and Bonnie Johnson, Jr. of Fremont is chairman of the deacons.

Worship service is held on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. for around 75 members. Sunday School is every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. and prayer meeting is held every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. On fifth Sunday the youth choir has charge of the 11:00 a.m. service. Their program includes the use of drums and guitar, in addition to the piano and organ. The Home Missions Program is Tuesday after the third Sunday of each month. The senior choir performs at all other regular morning services.

Union Grove Missionary Baptist's roots have grown deep. Offers to purchase the property and relocate the Church have not been accepted.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON)

Due to increased missionary work in the Nahunta area from 1880 to 1900, quite a number of people were baptized in the Mormon faith here and in the western edge of Johnston County.

For several years they met for Sunday School at Radford's Crossroads in what was then known as the old Meadow Meeting House. The majority of this group soon moved west to Idaho and to Utah.

On October 30, 1932, a home Sunday School was organized and met in the home of Herman B. Aycock. The meeting place was changed to the home of Bertha A. Maples at the end of 1935 and changed from one home to another until 1942. In the fall of 1942, a chapel was completed on land



Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints met first in homes. Children: L-R David Harper, Elua Harper, Lettie Harper, Junior Harper; 1st row - Marthe Scott, Nancy Mooring, Beatrice Harper, Hilda Aycock, Nannie Outland, Ollie Maples Jones, Adrain Harper; 2nd - Row Delma Aycock Costin, Vivian Harper Pope, Martha Maples Smith, Bill Edwards, Afton Harper; 3rd Row - Fred Harper, Hyrum Maples, Denzel Aycock, Henry Maples, Denver King, Murray Sullivan, Nathan Wiggins, Herman Aycock ; 4th Row - Wilma Mooring Swannebel, Dorothy Maples, Wilma Harper Hirschmann, Dimple Aycock Mellor, Neva Harper Smith, Shirley Maples Olson, Ruby Maples Hawes, Lavina Harper

donated by Herman A. Aycock. It was located on State Road 1336 about a half mile west of Highway 581. Aycock and his sisters gave timber and members donated labor.

The Nahunta Branch was dissolved in September, 1954, and from that date all members

in Nahunta as well as those from Grantham have met in Goldsboro on Ash Street and later on 11th Street.



Nahunta Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter Day Saints

N a h u n t a Grange bought the building and land both of which were used for community activities. Boy scout troops met there and it was used briefly for a summer youth recreation program, a community

youth club, and karate lessons. Tennis courts were built and picnic tables were added.

Little League softball teams have games there. In 1988 the Swim Club bought the land with the stipulation that the building be torn down since it was no longer used. Thus more space would be available for an athletic field and for parking.

The Mormons have always placed much emphasis on strong family life. They stress having a Family Home Evening on Monday evenings. Youth groups have always been active. The Church took part in the Wayne County Sunday School Association for several years. The Maples, Harper and Aycock families have formed the nucleus for the Mormon faith at Nahunta and several have been on Church missions. These have been: Herman B. Aycock, Denzel Aycock, Delma Aycock, Hyrum Maples, Ruby Maples, Martha Maples, Fred Harper, Vivian Harper, and Wilma Harper. Raymond and Lucille Aycock, Ollie Jones and Hyrum Maples have worked at the Mormon Temple in Washington, DC.

PLEASANT HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Pleasant Hill Church, located on State Road 1330, called Gurley Dairy Road, was organized in 1885 at the home of J. H. Shallington. Mrs. Margaret Crawford was the evangelist.



1899 Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church

Mr. Shallington gave the Church a building site located about one-half mile west of the present site. The building, only partially completed, remained on this site about four years. The present site was deeded to the Church on January 5, 1899 by E. L. Mazingo, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Benson of Wayne County, and Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Howell of Johnston County. Then the building was moved to the new site and completed.

Mr. William "Bill" Sasser gave timber and sawed it for the pews. The pews were replaced

later with some made of gum lumber given by Mr. John Hollowell, Sr.

The first pastor was Curtis Howell who served from 1899 to 1913. The pastors who have followed are as follows:

W. B. "Billie" Everett	L. T. Philips
W. M. Howell	W. H. Whitley
Needham Langston	E. T. Lucas
E. G. Holland	A. A. Wells
W. G. Pike	G. C. Joyner
James Lupton	Jerry Rowe
Bruce Dudley	W. J. "Jack" Mayo
Henry Barfield	R. P. Harris
C. M. Coats	Dwight Hawley
Luther Swinson	Larry Melton
Don Kivett	Henry Armstrong
	(Present)

In 1944 electric lights were installed in the Church. A new heater was purchased, a new floor was laid and the building covered and painted.

In 1948 two Sunday School classrooms were added to the original structure and in 1950 memorial windows were added.

In 1956 a complete renovation of the building began. The exterior was brick veneered. Mr. Bill Turner supervised and did much of the work himself. A marker was erected. Four classrooms were added and a heating plant was installed. This work was completed and a dedication service held on October 19, 1958.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Bunn gave the Church a half acre of land for a cemetery.

Under the leadership of Jack Mayo the work of the Church moved forward in all phases with Church and Sunday School membership increasing. A fellowship building 62' X 28' with three classrooms, a kitchen, recreation area, and

toilet facilities were erected. The building was completed in May, 1966, and the dedication service of the debt-free building was held June, 1967.



Present Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church

The next undertaking was a choir loft completed in 1969. The pulpit furniture was re-finished by the ladies of the Church. A heating-cooling system was installed and the floor carpeted.

In 1971 the quarterly business meeting and communion service was changed from Saturday night to Sunday night resulting in increased attendance at these meetings. The Church pledged \$1,000 to the Mount Olive College Chapel fund.

Building needs again were addressed. New shingles replaced the old roof, a cement walkway was poured and the building was painted inside

and out. A new piano was purchased and a new steeple was placed on the Church.

In 1975 the Church purchased a lot across the road and built a parsonage. Rev. Luther Swinson was the first pastor to occupy the parsonage.

Memorials and honorary gifts made possible the purchase of a Church organ, pew cushions, pew Bibles, and plexi-glass covers for the stained-glass windows.

The Church budget was raised and the Church voted to go to full-time service. A framed map of the cemetery, drawn to scale, was given to the Church by Floyd Baker. The Sunday School and the Ladies Auxiliary are an integral part of the Church. They sponsor teacher-training programs and study courses, youth work, Church retreats, fund-raising projects, and services to the shut-ins and aged.

The Sunday School superintendents have been A. R. Rosson, Oscar Snipes, H. C. Turner, Garner Sullivan, and Bill Turner. Then came Floyd Baker who served for 20 years followed by Joseph Rollins. When Rollins retired, the Church had a "Joseph Rollins Sunday" honoring him on Sunday, July 15, 1990, in appreciation for his 22 years as superintendent. Jimmy Mitchell is the present superintendent.

The Sunday School sponsors a child at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Active in the Church and Sunday School are four youth groups, the Ladies Auxiliary and adult, youth and girls' choirs. All meet regularly. Vacation Bible School is held annually. The youth attend summer camp at Cragmont and Eagle's Nest. In the last few year the Church has greatly increased its gifts to missions and the Children's Home. Pleasant Hill has been one of the top three Churches in Wayne County in

gifts, per capita, to Mount Olive College, Cragmont Assembly, and other worthwhile programs.

Two former members are now Free Will Baptist Missionaries serving in the Philippines. They are Fred and Linda Baker.

Church members realize that growth has and must take place in the physical plant and in the spiritual life of members. Sights are forever set on serving our God by loving and serving one's fellowman.

PINKNEY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



The Pinkney Missionary Baptist Church was organized on July 17, 1909, with eight members. The Rev. R. W. Harrell served as first pastor of the Church. The charter members were as follows: Robert E. Lee, Daisy Lee, Ida E. Edgerton, John A. Woodard, Nettie Woodard,

Fannie C. Pittman, Delinda Overman and Nancy Lewis.

The first deacon was John A. Woodard who moved to Pinkney from Princeton and had been ordained in the Princeton Baptist Church in 1899. Mrs. Ida E. Edgerton was the first clerk and treasurer and was an influential member for many years.

Pinkney Baptist Church is located off Highway 581 about one and one-half miles north of Nahunta School.

The name Pinkney was selected for the Church because of its closeness to the Pinkney Post Office and hamlet. However, there is no post office at Pinkney now and some of the stores are not in operation anymore. Highway 581 and State road 1337 intersect at Pinkney.

The original building was a one-room structure. In 1967 four Sunday School rooms and two restrooms were added and the sanctuary was remodeled. The Sunday School attendance at that time was 96.

The Church was bricked in 1973 and in 1974 a new educational building was constructed with kitchen facilities, two restrooms, and a fireplace. A central heating and cooling system was installed in 1975. The sanctuary was completely remodeled in 1984 with renovations including paneling, new molding, painting, new carpet, and new pulpit furniture. Also, in 1984 the Church bought a lot just behind the present building for a parsonage. The parking lot was upgraded and the grounds landscaped in 1986.

Members are currently raising funds for a sound system.

The present pastor is the Rev. Jimmy Dupree. Other Church officers are Michael

Aycock, Sunday School Superintendent; Grace Daughtry, clerk; and Shirley Beaman, treasurer.

Troy Daughtry, Jr. is chairman of the deacons. Other members of the deacon body are Dennis Collier, Ralph Collier, Steve Brogden, G. C. Williamson, and Wayne Beaman.

PIKE'S CROSSROADS CHURCH

The Pike's Crossroads Pentecostal Holiness Church was born in a tent revival meeting in the spring of 1923.



First Pike's Crossroads Church

The Rev. D. J. Little and the Rev. Tom Bizzell, now deceased, held services in the tent that was located on the grounds where today's complex stands.

From that revival, the church was organized

on May 24, 1923, with about a dozen charter members. There are no records listing these names but from recollections of some senior citizens of today, it is believed that the following were among the charter members: Marvin Waters, Will Waters, Ella Crocker, Ed Gurley, Ranzie Gurley, Octavia Marlowe, Matt Marlowe, Polly Evans, Matilda Talton Rose, Ada Hinnant, Jesse Stafford, Dock Rose and Sally Hollowell. Soon afterwards, Nellie Pearsall, Ada Sasser, Lindley Hollowell, Thelma Hollowell, and Dorothy Gurley Hinnant joined the church.

This small group first worshipped in a little one-room wood building located in back of today's church where Mrs. Aggie Sasser now resides.

In early 1924, a 1/2-acre plot of ground, where the church is now located, was given by Mrs. Naomi Sasser Vail of Pikeville. Work soon began on a one-room sanctuary.

In the beginning, services were held one Sunday each month. Later they were scheduled for two Sundays each month and in the early 60's the Rev. W. W. Thomas began preaching each Sunday morning and night.

Prayer meeting has always been a Wednesday night event; and in the beginning Sunday School was held during the afternoon.

According to recollections, the first funeral service held in the church was for Mrs. Elephare Sasser in April of 1924. She was the mother of Mrs. Naomi S. Vail, who gave the land for the church building. It is remembered that the building, not completed at the time, had only the outside walls standing.

Through the years the physical plant has changed many times. However, the biggest undertaking was the construction of the new church. The first service in it was held on

Sunday, September 16 1973. Mrs. Margaret Russell was pastor.

A lovely parsonage, located in Western Wayne Estates, was completed in 1978.

A larger education building with classrooms, restrooms, and kitchen was completed and tied to the sanctuary with a covered "drive-through" in 1986. The latest big project was the paving of the church parking lot in 1989.

The church has an active Sunday School, including a Junior Department, Women's Ministries, Men's Fellowship, Royal Rangers, Girls' Auxiliary, Golden Circle, and a singing group, The Sounds of Praise. Another active group assists Bill Cotton in the Rest Home Ministry.

A call to the ministry has been accepted by five from the congregation. They are Van Minshew, Edsel Hooks, Bill Cotton, Lavern Gooding, and Marty Gurganus. One of the charter members, Marvin Waters, also became a minister.



Present Pike's Crossroads
Pentecostal Holiness Church

Missions have become a special and ongoing project of the church. Over \$10,000 was given to this cause last fiscal year.

The church has been named Rural Church of the Year by the Nahunta Grange and Rural Sunday School of the Year by the Wayne County Sunday School Association. Franklin Nichols was named Wayne County Superintendent of the Year in 1966 by the county organization.

The softball teams have also been winners in the Northern Wayne Church Softball League.

Pike's Crossroads is one of the few rural churches in Wayne County with a Junior Sunday School Department. In 1987 a Children's Church was started for morning worship service.

Pastors serving the church since 1923:

D. J. Little	T. E. Bizzell
Johnny Wellons	Ralph R. Johnson
William R. Johnson	A. H. Butler
Jake William	W. T. Merritt
J. A. Howard	Moses Thomas
W. M. Watkin	M. D. Freeman
W. B. Satterfield	W. G. Batten
W. W. Thomas	Otis Lambert
Royce A. Beacham	Margaret Russell
Gary Strickland	Vernon Clark
Tim Creel	Thad White
Reuben Mosely (Present Pastor)	

In November of each year the Church sponsors a pancake and sausage supper, with the money going to help Falcon Children's Home.

Through the years the Church has been noted for its music program and involvement with young people.

The Pike's Crossroads Church continuously strives to be a place of refuge where all may come to find help for the soul, mind, and body.

PINEY GROVE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Piney Grove Primitive Baptist church is located east of Highway 581 about one-half mile north of Pinkney on Route 2, Fremont, N.C. The small white building is in a peaceful-looking setting in the edge of a forest.

The Church was organized about 1930 and is a member of the Contentnea Association. In fact, some members of the Contentnea Association helped build the Church.

The site was a donation to the Church for as long as the Church is active. Though the membership is very small, services are held regularly the fourth Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Quarterly Meeting is held on Saturday and Sunday the fourth weekend in February, May, August, and November.



Piney Grove Primitive
Baptist Church

Elder Fletcher R. Coley of Fremont is the present pastor. He has been with the Church for

5-6 years. Former pastors have been Elder Tom Bunch and Elder Lawrence Reid. The deacons are Silas Best, Andrew Coley, and James E. Cooper.

Though members are getting old now, they still love and serve God and are obedient to His command to "love thy neighbor as thyself."

BROWN'S APOSTOLIC HOLY CHURCH

The Brown's Chapel Apostolic Holy Church is located on State Road 1324 called the ICI road. The Church is on the east side of the highway just south of NorAm Eastern Research Center.

The Church was organized in 1964 spear-headed by Doretha Ryals Brown. The charter members are as follows: Richard Brown, Richard Steve Brown, William Earl Brown, Annie Mae Green Bynum, Clarence Bynum, Andrew Coley, Genevia



Brown's Apostolic Holy Church

Coley, Beatrice Atkinson, Lola Marie Atkinson, Pearlle Mae Atkinson, Regenia Atkinson, Elizabeth Atkinson, Pauline Atkinson, Joan Atkinson, Jimmie Lee Atkinson, and Julia Mae Atkinson.

The Rev. Doretha Williams of Goldsboro is pastor of the Church and Mrs. Sheila Head is the Church secretary. Senior Bishop Isaac Ryals of Fremont serves this Church and others along the East Coast.

The Church has a full program with Sunday School each Sunday at 10:00 a.m., Church services at 11:00 a.m., prayer meeting each Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m., and quarterly meeting at 5:00 p.m. the third Saturday of each quarter. The Church ordinances of communion and washing of feet are observed at the quarterly meeting.

The Church purpose is to learn more about God and to love and serve Him and mankind.

LIVING WATERS FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Living Waters Free Will Baptist Church was organized in January, 1973, with 40 charter members. The main purpose in organizing the Church was for the support of Worldwide Missions. From the beginning the Church voted to give 10 percent of all offerings for the support of a mission outreach.



Living Waters Free Will Baptist Church

An annual faith-promise missions conference was begun in December of 1974. As a result of this commitment, the Church has contributed to 36 missionaries in 26 countries.

The name for the Church was chosen from those names which members suggested. The scripture reference for the choice is John 4:10.

The Church purchased eight acres of land at Peacock's Crossroads at the intersection of State Roads 1002 and 1324. A Church building was built and occupied for the first service in December, 1973. A parsonage was completed on the same property in 1976.

As a result of an active evangelism program and bus ministry, there have been 141 known professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

TABERNACLE HOLINESS CHURCH

Tabernacle Holiness Church with 18 members was organized in January, 1989. It is located beside Polly Watson Fire Department at the intersection of Highway 581 and State Road 1367. Rev. Cecil Pipkin of Black Creek is the pastor. In addition to Sunday School, worship services are held first and third Sunday mornings and each Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. The Church sponsors a gospel sing the third Saturday night of each month.



Tabernacle Holiness Church Organization

ORGANIZATIONS

NAHUNTA EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS CLUB

Nahunta Extension Homemakers Club was one of the first home demonstration clubs organized in Wayne County. Home demonstration work has been the lifeline for the women of the Nahunta Community through the years.

The work was begun in Wayne County in 1915. In 1917, Mrs. Milford (Eugenia) Aycock invited some of her friends to meet with her in the old Oak Plain School to organize a Ladies Betterment Association. They were to work with the teachers in the new school being built at Nahunta. A dozen women met that afternoon.

Estelle T. Smith of Goldsboro was serving as Wayne County's first Home Agent. Early in 1918, the Betterment Association was organized and called the Nahunta Canning Club.

The 13 charter members were Mesdames Will (Mary) Edgerton, Milford (Eugenia) Aycock, B. L. (Alma) Pierce, Ernest (Bette) Edgerton, Luther (Cassie)



Eugenia Aycock

Lynch, G. F., (Effie) Peele, E. L. (Zona) Peele, Walter (Lillie) Sasser, Ralph (Azzie) Aycock, Frank (Alice) Overman, Joe (Stella) Davis, Fred (Bertha) Pittman, and Haskell (Roella) Edgerton. The club met in the homes, school classrooms, or Nahunta church.

Later with Mrs. Jenie Roberts as Home Agent, the Canning Club was reorganized into the Nahunta Home Demonstration Club.

ACTIVITIES OF EARLY CLUB

The first decade of Home Demonstration work for Nahunta women was crowded with activities. (Harding and Coolidge were U. S. Presidents.) The program had advanced from tomato canning to canning foods in general. The steam pressure cooker later replaced the outdoor hot water cooker. The agents met with the clubs and gave demonstrations. Hat-making and basket-weaving became popular. The 10-day short course in Raleigh was established; that was a week's vacation for many Home Demonstration women. In 1923, the Wayne County Curb Market was organized and opened with seven sellers. Some Nahunta women were among the first sellers. This was sponsored by the Extension Service.

The hot lunch program in our schools today was begun in 1928 by Home Demonstration women. Nahunta women were also in there working in Nahunta School's first hot lunch program. The minutes of the August meeting in 1934 stated, "Mrs. Alma Pierce reported that 75 dozen jars had been filled for Nahunta School lunchroom." Each member was to fill one dozen jars and ask a non-club members to fill one dozen jars.

When the depression hit in 1932, financial support for Home Demonstration work for Wayne

County was discontinued for four years. Nahunta Club was one of five clubs in the county that continued to meet without the aid of the agent.

BUILDING OF CLUB BUILDING

As early as 1933, after meeting for 17 years in school classrooms, homes, and Nahunta Friends Church, the women began to talk and plan for a clubhouse. Mrs. Milford (Eugenia) Aycock was asked to investigate getting a loan to build a clubhouse. She reported at the next meeting, "no loan available." The group took up the challenge. The membership was divided into two groups for a contest to see which side could raise the most money for a "Clubhouse Fund." In January, 1935, the treasurer reported \$71.00 in the treasury for the building fund.

World War II came. The women were drawn into the War effort; hence, building plans slowed for awhile. However, the club's projects for the community continued. The teachers from the school and the basketball teams were entertained each year. The Community Club (later the PTA) was organized by the Home Demonstration Club. The 4-H Club was sponsored and helped. The club worked closely with the school in every way. Many hours were spend working in the Food Rationing Program.

In 1942 the building fund had grown enough so that a plot of land was bought from the county for \$20. It was located on the edge of the school ground and bordered by Butter Branch. Later that same year, with less than \$200 in the building fund, the building was started. Once the foundation was laid, the community came alive. Husbands and friends came with tools, knowledge in building, and a will to work. They worked, and the club women served them picnic lunches. With this surge of interest, the building was framed, covered, and floored. The

war was expanding; work was slowed almost to a halt. Money was hard to come by.

In August, 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The war was drawing to a close. On September 6, 1945, Japan unconditionally surrendered. The fighting was over!

Now that the war was over, the club was free to move forward with the building program. Money was raised by serving suppers, holding contests, bazaars, fashion shows, and collecting tobacco and hens for sale. Womanless weddings and Tom Thumb weddings were held along with various other projects. In the final phases of the building program, \$384.70 was borrowed, interest-free, from four of the club members.

The building (60' X 32' and 40' high) was completed in 1949. The first meeting was held in the clubhouse in May, 1950. Open house was



Extension Homemakers Club Building Built in 1949

held in February, 1951, with 200 guests and members registered. The building is an asset to the club and community. It is used by many. Parties, family reunions, and business meetings are held each year within its walls. Through the years, the club has been the hub of social activities in this rural community.

In June, 1952, following the final payment on the building debt, the 35th anniversary was celebrated with a picnic on the grounds with husbands and families as guests.

OTHER CLUB ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Nahunta Club has many accomplishments to its credit other than the huge building program.

Leadership is much in evidence among the membership. Mrs. A. W. (Pearl) Pierce served as State President of the Home Demonstration Organization in 1946. She was also State Treasurer of the Jane S. McKimmons Loan Fund for five years.

In 1959, Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn was the Wayne County representative to a state-wide Rural Woman's Symposium. The symposium was organized by Miss Ruth Current, North Carolina Assistant Director of Home Economics. After a complete and thorough study by Miss Current and State Extension Homemakers leaders, a report by a nine-member committee appointed by Mr. William C. Friday, President of the Consolidated University of North Carolina, with the concurrence of Gov. Luther Hodges, was asked to study all phases of extension work in North Carolina.

With only two women (they without rural backgrounds) on this committee, some phases of the study were not in keeping with the things the Home Economics Program of Extension was

trying to accomplish. This symposium had far-reaching effects in the shaping of the Extension Homemakers Program today.

Changes took place in the Extension Program after this study. The women's work grew. When word came that the Home Agent would not attend all the club meetings, club women were upset! But the Leadership Training Program was launched. While the clubs have missed the visits of the Home Agent, it was a blessing in disguise. Club women are now trained by the agent to present programs, teach classes, and give demonstrations. Thus, much leadership develops through this program.

INVOLVEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

In 1977 Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn represented the Southeastern District as a delegate to the Associated Country Women of the World Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Those who have attended National Meetings as delegates are Mrs. A. W. (Pearl) Pierce (2), Mrs. Aldon (Clara Lee) Gurley (2), Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn (2), Mrs. Elton (Jean) Wooten (1), Mrs. L. M. (Jean) Pierce (1), and Mrs. Molton (Doris) Gurley (1). Serving on State Committees have been Mrs. A. W. (Pearl) Pierce, Loan Fund Treasurer, Mrs. Aldon (Clara Lee) Gurley, Citizenship Committee; Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn, Education Committee Chairman; Mrs. Worth (Lillie Mae) Overman, Safety Committee; and Mrs. Elton (Jean) Wooten, Housing Committee Chairman. Mrs. L. M. (Jean) Pierce served five years as State Safety Committee Consultant.

District representation from Nahunta Club has been by Mrs. Albert (Pearl) Pierce, President; Mrs. Aldon (Clara Lee) Gurley, President; Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn, President; Mrs. L. M. (Jean) Pierce, Health, Foods and Nutrition Com-

mittee Chairman; and Mrs. Worth (Lillie Mae) Overman, District Treasurer.

Through the years, many honors and awards have come to Nahunta Club members.

Mrs. E. L. (Zona) Peele received the title of Master Homemaker, a coveted national award.

In 1974 Mrs. A. W. (Pearl) Pierce, past president of the club and past state president, was honored by Nahunta Club and given a life membership for her leadership and faithfulness through the years.

Mrs. Reuben (Ora Belle) Sasser won a state award in canning in 1939.

Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn and Mrs. Aldon (Clara Lee) Gurley are recipients of the A&P Leadership Award, a district and state award.

Mrs. Aaron (Winnie) Peele won the "I Remember When" State Writing Contest Award in 1978.

In 1984 Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn was the first winner of the "Outstanding Women of Agriculture" Wayne County award. This was followed by Mrs. Russell (Agnes) Corbitt as the county winner in 1987.

Mrs. Molton (Doris) Gurley has been recognized on the county level for five years as a certified volunteer unit participant with around 3000 hours given in volunteer public service over the five-year period.

This certified volunteer program ties in with the challenge of George Bush in his inaugural address as 41st President in 1989. He challenged all volunteers to make America "a house of 1,000 lights."

First place winners in the Wayne County Fair's "Senior Citizen" or "Grandmother Queen"

are Mrs. Aaron (Winnie) Peele, Mrs. Cedric (Marguerite) Pierce, and Mrs. Molton (Doris) Gurley.

Wayne County Leader of the Year Award has been received by Mrs. Hardy (Mildred) Talton, Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn, Mrs. Worth (Lille Mae) Overman, Mrs. L. M. (Jean) Pierce, Mrs. Molton (Doris) Gurley, and Mrs. Elton (Jean) Wooten.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The community projects and activities of the club are many and varied. The Community Crime Watch Program, under the leadership of Mrs. Oland (Jean) Peele, was organized as a club project.

At the November meeting in 1958, the County Banner Club Trophy, won by the club for three years in succession, was put on display and presented permanently to the club by the President, Mrs. Ora Belle Sasser.

In 1980 Nahunta Club placed in five categories in achievements on County Achievement Day.

The year 1981 saw the organization and sponsorship of a Young Homemakers Club with 11 charter members. Mrs. Norwood (Bettie Bunn) Talton served as the first president. The N.E.W. Candle-Lighters Club now has 18 members.

Most points for exhibits at the Wayne County Fair was won by the club in 1984.

In 1986 a quilt made by Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn for her daughter Bettie (Bunn) Lynch was one of four quilts chosen from Wayne County to be exhibited at a quilt show at North Carolina Museum of History. The quilt was one of 65 chosen from more than 10,000 documented in N. C.

Other county award-winning projects include "Facelifting Nahunta Clubhouse;" in 1972, "Study of County Landfills and Community Cleanup," and in 1985 "Building and Grounds Improvement" (which continued into 1986).

The project, "Pride in Nahunta" was started in 1987 and continued with much expansion into 1988. The project won second place in 1987. That year, the club also won the coveted award of Banner Club of the Year. In 1988 the Pride in Nahunta project won first place and again the club was the recipient of the Banner Club Award. In 1989 the club again won second place in the County Club of the Year awards.

CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Crafts have been much in evidence in the Extension Homemakers (formerly Home Demonstration) program since its beginning.

In the 60's and 70's, with Mrs. Hardy (Mildred) Talton as craft leader for many years, the members enjoyed craft workshops in the homes. Craft displays were at each meeting. During 1972 336 craft items were made and displayed. Mrs. Aldon (Clara Lee) Gurley has demonstrated and displayed pine needle crafts throughout the state; some of her pine needle baskets can be found in three foreign countries.

In April, 1970, Nahunta Extension Homemakers joined other clubs in the county and state in celebrating the golden anniversary of Extension Homemakers. In an October devotion, Mrs. James Ray (Irene) Johnson said, "What the Homemakers Clubs have done in the first 50 years would be a challenge for the next 50 years."

When the centennial year came to America, the Nahunta Club project for the year was making and quilting a red, white and blue quilt, "Peace

and Plenty." The quilt was displayed at the 4th of July celebration at Pinkney, North Carolina.

ACTIVITIES OF THE EIGHTIES

The fast age of the eighties caught Nahunta Club women in its swing, with the county slogan "Come Alive in Eighty-Five" being the hallmark for the whole decade.

Mrs. L. M. (Jean) Pierce attended a learning seminar, "University Day on Wheels."

A blood pressure clinic was held at the club building with 25 club members and community people having their blood pressure checked.



Elizabeth Overman checks Margaret Pierce's blood pressure as part of a club project

Club members continue to participate in flower shows, pie-baking contests, the county fair. Yard sales and the Christmas bazaar are held as money-making projects. In 1981 five projects were completed by the club.

With Mrs. Russell (Mozelle) Gurley now as Cultural Arts Chairman, crafts and cultural arts continue to be at the forefront. Also, writing community history, church history, club history, family history and one's individual history is

much in the activities and projects. Mrs. Gurley is now completing Nahunta community history. Nahunta Club history was compiled and brought up-to-date by Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn.

With the "Best Yard" contest being held each year in the county, Nahunta Club initiated a "Yard of the Month" contest and joined in with the "Keep America Beautiful" program by taking an "Adopt-A-Highway" project.

As the club moved forward with the 1988 award-winning project, Pride in Nahunta, the decision was made to sponsor a community-wide meeting involving all businesses, churches, and organizations in the community. Mrs. Sarah Humphries, Onslow County Coordinator of the Keep America Beautiful Program, was the speaker with Dr. W. E. Plumber, a Wayne County worker with the program, participating. A road was adopted by the club and many local businesses, schools, churches, and organizations became involved in the program.

In 1987 Nahunta Club honored its 50-year members at a luncheon held at the Regency Inn East of Goldsboro. Those honored were Mrs. A. W. (Pearl) Pierce, Mrs. Hardy (Mildred) Talton, Mrs. Floyd (Bertha) Morris, Mrs. Aaron (Winnie) Peele, Mrs. Reuben (Ora Belle) Sasser, and Mrs. Aldon (Clara Lee) Gurley. Added to that list since the luncheon is Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn.



Fifty-year members in 1988: seated - Pearl Pierce, Bertha Morris, Ora Belle Sasser; standing - Clara Lee Gurley, Winnie Peele, Mildred Talton. Zora Bunn became a 50-year member in 1990.

Participating by helping with the surplus food program in 1986 and helping migrant workers by making and filling ditty bags for a number of years were activities enjoyed by club members. Another activity enjoyed by members is the educational tours, traveling throughout the eastern United States.

In the spring of 1988 the club sponsored a community-wide yard sale in Nahunta School yard. Community youth groups, church youth groups, and individuals participated. The community was drawn together in a fun, fellowship, and money-making activity. The club's treasury was replenished with \$223.60 for its project. and a total of around \$900 was sold.



Community Flea Market sponsored by club

The most outstanding and creative project of the year with the school was the program, "Odyssey of the Mind," led and directed by Mrs. J. D. (Tempie) Jones. The program was presented at the school, the club, and to various groups in the community. The group of fourth and fifth grade students, under Mrs. Jones' direction, won first place in the county and state and went on to compete in world competition held in Baltimore, Maryland.

In April, 1990, the Nahunta Extension Homemakers Club sponsored a special day at Nahunta School. The day called "Do You Know Where Your Food Comes From?" was the first such day in Wayne County.

Exhibits were set up in the gymnasium showing foods and food products that come from corn, soybeans, grain, bees, and gardens. Sausage biscuits, turkey dishes, milk, and ice cream



Lille Mae Overman explains to
students the source of food

were served, and many pamphlets were distributed. Outside, turkeys, cows, hogs, goats, and chickens were placed for viewing. Several merchants had contributed products to be distributed. All students and some community leaders were invited. Several classes responded by drawing pictures and writing notes on what had impressed them most.

The year 1988 ended with a goat being given for the Haiti Project.

Nahunta Club accepted a big challenge to begin its new year by replacing the roof of the 60' X 32' club building. This decision was made at the March meeting in 1989 with only \$500 in the treasury for the project. An auction sale was planned for April. The sale was held, and

enough money was raised to complete the project debt free. By the first of May, the club building had a new roof.

While the members have been busy through the years, so have their spouses and friends. Club members appreciate the work and support of those in the community who have helped and supported them in their efforts.



Pearl Pierce and Mildred Talton were honored at the 75th Anniversary of Extension work in Wayne County for having been members the most years.

Sincere appreciation and thanks go to the following members of Nahunta Extension Homemakers Club who, through the years, have recorded the activities and work of the club at various periods of its history. Some of this information has been included in this history. The members are Mrs. Milford (Eugenia) Aycock, Mrs. Cedric (Marguerite) Pierce, Mrs. Aldon (Clara Lee) Gurley, and Mrs. Clarence (Zora) Bunn.

Extension Homemakers is an organization that provides education, service, and fellowship for enrichment of the lives of its members and betterment of the community.

NAHUNTA GRANGE

The Grange is a farm organization that represents the interest of rural families who make their living from agriculture. The Nahunta Grange was organized March 10, 1937, with 57 charter members. The first officers were as follows: Pearl Pierce (Mrs. Albert), Master; Clara Lee Gurley (Mrs. Aldon), secretary; and Clee Davis, lecturer. The local Grange is an affiliate of the state and national Grange.

Other masters have been Hardy Talton, Hyrum Maples, William Crawford, Rufus Hare, Molton Gurley and Melvin Jones. The present master is Johnnie Howell.

The Grange is the oldest fraternal farm organization in America. Its members are always seeking improvement and advancement of rural living. Rural people have electricity and telephones due, in part, to the Grange. Farm cooperatives help the farmers' economy; and modern rural schools, roads and health facilities are there to serve because the Grange sponsored and supported them. The volunteer fire departments and rural churches are growing in strength because of community development, a long-term project of the Grange. Moral, social and spiritual values are also stressed.



Grange Hall and members in earlier years

The Grange has also been involved in legislation to help the poultry farmer; and integrater regulations to improve our water and soil are constantly reviewed by the Grange.

Yearly, local and Pomona Granges submit, at the State Grange Conventions, resolutions dealing with concerns that need to be addressed. These are discussed and amended. Those selected are then proposed for consideration at the National Grange Convention. Those resolutions passed are used by Grange lobbyists with legislators.

One major Grange project in 1962 was hosting the farm leaders from India under the International Community Project. These leaders stayed one week in the homes of Grange members and visited farms and processing plants in various areas. Another ongoing project begun in 1950 has been presenting annually a citizenship

award to the Best-All-Around student in the highest grade at Nahunta School. The winner of this award is selected by classmates and teachers; hence it is the most cherished award presented at Nahunta School Awards Day. Students strive for it and parents are delighted when their son or daughter is the recipient.

Another ongoing project is Adopt-A-Highway in connection with the Keep America Beautiful emphasis. Around 12 people join forces quarterly to clean two miles of highway.

In 1988 Nahunta Grange sponsored a free speech and hearing clinic at the Grange Hall for anyone wishing to be checked. These activities indicate interest in community service.

GRANGE BUILDING

In the early years the Nahunta Grange met in the Nahunta School. However, plans were soon made to build a meeting hall which could double as a community center. World War II delayed those plans. But members continued money-making projects in order to have funds available when help and materials became available.

At that time some barracks at Seymour Johnson Field were for sale and a committee was appointed to investigate them as a possible building. They did and made a \$50 deposit on one. On January 24, 1950, at a called meeting for all Grange members the barracks were discussed. It was decided that we could build a more suitable building for about the same price. So the barracks deal was off even though the Grange lost the \$50.

In 1949 Mr. Ben Lewis, a Grange member, gave the Grange an acre of land for a building site on the south side of State Road 1336 about one half mile from Highway 581. The site was a

dense forest and on January 26 Grange men began the task of clearing the grounds. The ladies prepared lunch each day for the workers.

Plans were made to begin a 24' X 50' building with an ante-room on either side at the entrance. The back was left so that a kitchen, stage, dressing rooms and restrooms could be built later.

Grange members gave the timber and Cedric Pierce sawed it. All work was contributed by members except for the overseer, Zeno Edgerton, who was paid \$25 for planning and supervising the work. Of the 113 members 95 helped with the building. Men, women and children worked happily together. Though bad weather and hold-up of materials delayed the work, the building was completed in May, 1949.

A used piano was purchased and chairs were donated by members. By 1954 the membership numbered 150.



Former Mormon Church purchased by Grange for Youth Center. One summer Keith Wells was in charge of the recreation program with skating, tennis, and many other games.

In 1958 the wing containing a kitchen and nursery was built. A Junior Grange was organized and met in the nursery. Sarah Jones was the Junior Grange Leader assisted by Mozelle Gurley.

In 1959 the Latter Day Saints Church, across the road from the Grange Building, was purchased for Grange youth and community activities. The long-range goals were for that area to become a recreation center with rides, slides, picnic tables, shelters, basketball and tennis courts for public use. In 1988 that area was sold to the Nahunta Swim Club.

The Nahunta Grange building, built to serve the Grange and the community, has been used by many organizations including Farm Bureau, 4-H Club, Scouts, and Farmers Club. Also an Adult Education Class sponsored by the Grange and Wayne Community College began holding classes in the Grange Hall in 1989. In the summer of 1990, the Community Arts Council sponsored art classes at the Grange Hall for four weeks. Approximately 35 youth, ages 3 and up attended.

The Grange offers special programs for youth and women. In 1958 a Juvenile Grange was organized with Sarah Jones as Matron and Mozelle



Junior Grange

Gurley as assistant. Mrs. Jones was named State Matron of Juvenile Granges in 1963.. In 1960 the Juvenile Grange put on the degree for the National Grange in Winston Salem. This group was runner-up for community service projects in 1963 and was state winner in both 1965 and 1966 in the community service projects. For several years the Juvenile Grange disbanded and was rechartered in April of 1990. In women's activities, contests are held in sewing, cooking, quilting, stuffed toys, photography and other crafts including knitting and crocheting. Nahunta Grange has had State winners in knitting, crocheting, photography and sewing. Rachel Fields was state winner in sewing for three consecutive years and second in the nation in 1987.

Nahunta Grange has consistently been outstanding in the State Grange. In 1960, the Grange won the State award for its community service project and was runner-up in 1961. Two churches sponsored by the Grange have been recognized by the State Grange as Church of the year; namely, Pleasant Grove Free Will Baptist and Nahunta Friends. The Nahunta Volunteer Fire Department, entered by Nahunta Grange, was recognized as Fire Department of the year.

Individuals have also been state winners.

In 1959 Sarah and Melvin Jones won the state young couple-of-the-year. In 1961 William and Evelyn Crawford were named state couple of the year and placed among the top five in the nation. For this they won a trip to the National Grange Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts. Johnnie Howell was named Deputy of the year in 1962. Jimmy Howell was honored as State Grange youth of the year in 1961 and named state youth leader.

Two couples have been state runners-up: Johnnie and Mary Alice Howell and Louvene and

Leslie Berry. Gregory Peele was honored as state Grange young man-of-the-year in 1989.

Several members have held offices in the state Grange. Melvin Jones was assistant steward in the state grange and participated in the state degree many years. He was also insurance adjuster for the state Grange for 20 years.

Many Nahunta Grange members have contributed much to the success of Grange activities. To name a few, Hardy Talton was the initiator of Degree Day for all Grangers in Wayne County. On this day, all Grangers in Wayne County came together and each Grange put on one of the beautiful degrees in the ritualistic part of Grange procedures. Nahunta Grange presented the Fourth Degree for a number of years. It was through the efforts of Hardy Talton and the Grange that scout troops were started at Nahunta. The



Senior Grange Degree Team in early 40's; L-R: Front - Mildred Talton, Beulah Davis May, Mozelle Ricks Gurley, Jean Crawford Sasser, Ovelia Drew Rockwell, Elizabeth Gurley Overman, Russell Gurley; 2nd row - Oland Peele, Hardy Talton, Hyrum Maples, John Sasser, Mary Ellen Talton King, Charles Wooten, Hettie Lancaster Sasser, Dorothy Fields Aycock, Kenneth Edgerton, Johnny Howell

Grange furnished leaders and meeting place. The first person to be inducted into the Wayne Coun-

ty Hall of Fame was Hardy Talton of the Nahunta Grange. Other Grangers were later inducted; namely, Melvin Jones in 1988 and Oland Peele in 1986.

On Sunday, March 22, 1987, the Nahunta Grange celebrated its 50th anniversary with Robert Caldwell, State Master, along with other Grangers throughout the State and many community people attending. Three 50-year members were honored: Clara Lee Gurley, C. R. Lewis and Oland Peele. Mildred Talton was recognized in 1988 as a 50-year member and Russell Gurley in 1989.

Many officers have rendered faithful services for long periods of time thus helping to keep the Grange active.

Farming is big business in North Carolina. Our state ranks 11th in the nation in the value of farm crops. In 1989 farm families in our state received an excess of \$4 billion for the more than 70 agricultural commodities grown on North Carolina farms. In 1940, North Carolina boasted over 1,600,000 farms. Today, North Carolina has about 188,000 farms with only one person out of 17 involved in farming in our state.

North Carolina places second in the nation for farming and ag-related jobs. About 32 percent of the jobs in North Carolina are directly related to agriculture.

The Grange is proud to be a part of the agricultural community. Agriculture is basic to our life, and indeed in Wayne County agriculture is basic to our economy.

A mural was painted by Zeno Spence across the back of the stage of the Grange Hall. This mural depicts the beauty of rural living. The

Grange through the years has stood as a staunch influence in enhancing rural life in the community.

4-H CLUB

The Nahunta 4-H Club program is one of the oldest clubs in Wayne County and one of the most active. It started back in 1915 with Tomato Clubs for the girls and corn clubs for the boys. In 1916 Poultry and Pig Clubs were added. Mrs. Estelle Smith was the agent in Wayne County who organized these clubs. For many years the 4-H club meetings were held in the schools and were called School 4-H Clubs. In the late fifties or early sixties, they were moved from the schools to the community and called Community 4-H Clubs. The first two Nahunta Community 4-H Clubs were Nahunta Pioneers and Nahunta Eagles.

Community 4-H Volunteer Leaders assisted 4-H members with their projects and record books. They also assisted the 4-H members with entering projects and exhibiting at the Wayne County and North Carolina State Fairs.

Clubs have won many times with their exhibits. Some years ago the Nahunta Clubs prepared a winning booth on safety. They were invited to put that exhibit on at the N. C. State Fair. It showed simple, common-sense ideas that can make the difference between life and death. Thousands of people learned something important about safety from that exhibit.

Personal development and knowledge learned through success and failure characterize 4-H club work. It encourages the individual to aspire to higher ideals and seek to achieve loftier goals. It has led to better programs in agriculture and has trained boys and girls for better living.

Four-H Club work has had a tremendous influence on the young people of Nahunta. They have been active on local, district and state levels. There have been many state winners that were delegates to the National 4-H Camp and Conference. The State and National winners are selected during 4-H Club Week in Raleigh. The winners get an expense-paid trip to the National 4-H Congress in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1915 the late Allison Overman was the first state winner from Nahunta and one of the first to win a state award. He won with a corn project by producing 120 bushels of corn on one acre of land. His award was a rubber-tired buggy.

Aaron Peele was one of the first to win a national award. He had a pig project. Aaron was also a delegate to the first National 4-H Club Camp held in Washington, D. C., in 1927. It was there he met a young lady from Louisiana named Winnie Provost. They corresponded for several years and were married January 7, 1936.

Also, in 1929 Edmund Aycock of Nahunta attended the National 4-H Club Camp. He was followed by Oland Peele in 1938.



Betty Bunn was a state and national winner with her frozen food project.

Dickie Pierce is the only person from Nahunta to participate in the International Farm Youth Exchange Program. Dickie was selected as a delegate to Belgium and went in June of 1960.

Betty Bunn Lynch National
Winner in Frozen Food Project

Allen Ray Overman is the only club member from this area ever to attend the Danforth Camp.

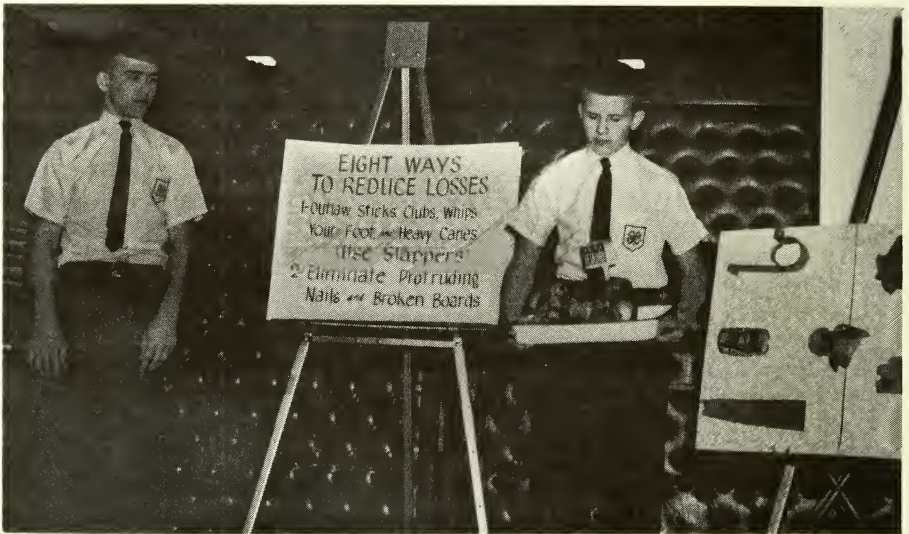


Barbara Davis Howard attended National 4-H Congress as a state food winner

Clarence "Buster" Bunn is the only Nahunta 4-H member to hold a state office. Buster was reporter for the state club.

Anthony Peele is the first and only 4-H member in this area ever to receive the 4-H Development Scholarship Fund.

Gregory Peele attended the National Conference in Chicago three times and is the only person from Nahunta and maybe the only 4-H member ever to earn that many times.



Anthony and Gregory Peele in National Winning Livestock Demonstration

Many 4-H members have held county and district offices and have been selected for membership in the State 4-H Honor Club. Honor Club members have been outstanding in project work and leadership. Only one percent of the membership each year can be honor club members and they must be 14 years of age or older. They are selected by their peers. Those from Nahunta who have been honor club members are:

1931 - M. Edmund Aycock
1931 - Aaron Peele
1938 - Oland Peele
1953 - Betty Bunn Lynch
1954 - Shelby Bunn Buchanan
1955 - Barbara Davis Howard
1955 - Allen Ray Overman
1956 - Clarence "Buster" Bunn
1962 - Lillian Davis Tillas
1968 - Anthony Peele
1968 - Gregory Peele
1977 - Helen Jones Davis

Twelve of the 38 honor club members from Wayne County have been from Nahunta.

State project winners who attended National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago, Illinois, and not already mentioned are: Ora Belle Peele Sasser 1939, Donald Bunn 1944, Billy Stucky 1950, Shelby Bunn Buchanan 1953, Barbara Davis Howard 1954, Billy Taylor 1956 and Helen Jones Davis 1977.

Many 4-H members have saved their money earned from their projects to help further their education or get started in their chosen work.

Through the years the 4-H program has expanded and new projects have been added. It is no longer only an organization for rural youth. There are now as many urban clubs as rural ones.

The 4-H program has provided many and varied experiences for Nahunta youth and given them opportunities for travel they would not otherwise have had. It has helped them learn to take advantage of opportunities for greater success and better living.

There are two active Nahunta Clubs at present. The Nahunta Indians meet at the Nahunta Friends Church once each month and have 10 members. Jean Peele is club leader. Working with

her is Sarah T. Jones, a retired County Extension 4-H leader and member of the community.

Winnie Peele helped organize this club and served as one of the leaders until sickness prevented her from being active. Other people assist with the project work such as sewing, cooking, safety, gardening, bicycle safety, crafts and public speaking; also pig, sheep and calf projects.

The other club is the After-School-Club. It meets at the school each day during the school year, Monday through Friday from three to six o'clock. Elaine Bedford is leader of this group of 13 members.



4-H Members help with roadside cleanup

In addition to their club projects these groups help with worthwhile community projects such as Adopt-A-Highway, recycling glass and newspapers, funding the Ronald McDonald House, contributing to the Empty Stocking Fund and to

the 4-H Development Fund. They are learning to have pride in their community.

Nahunta was well represented at the 4-H Banquet for Alumni and Friends held at Walnut Creek Country Club in April of 1988. The purpose was to capitalize on the 4-H heritage in Wayne County. Many 4-H artifacts were on display as 4-H record books, trophies, pictures, newspaper articles and the 4-H quilt Mrs. Zora Bunn made for her daughter, Betty. Mrs. Bunn's son "Buster" was Master of Ceremonies for the 365 who attended the meeting.

The Nahunta 4-H Club members really strive to live by the 4-H club motto "To Make The Best Better."

NAHUNTA COMMUNITY SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Nahunta Community Senior Citizens Club, organized in February, 1980, continues to meet monthly. Senior Americans from seven local churches and other individuals comprise the group.



Senior citizens enjoy quilting as a source of funds and fellowship

Molton Gurley served as the first president from its beginning until his death in March, 1983. Doris Gurley has served as program chairman since its beginning.

The group meets monthly, on Tuesday after second Sunday now, for a noon covered-dish meal. Each meeting an informative and entertaining program is planned including an ice-cream party in August and a Christmas luncheon outing as well as time for much good fellowship. Through the years the group has taken trips to such places as Asheville in the fall and Williamsburg. Day trips have included North Carolina Legislature, Museum of Art, Wilmington, Morehead, Chingua-Penn House, Old Salem, and local places of interest.



Senior citizens club salutes senior residents of Gurley Dairy Road

WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

The Wayne County Farm Bureau is a growing organization. Soon after World War II, a few farmers in the Mount Olive area had agricultural problems which could not be solved individually so the first Farm Bureau Unit in Wayne County was organized in 1945 with Mr. N. F. Hollóman as the president.

Within a short time, units were organized at Eureka, Fremont, Seven Springs, and New Hope.

The Wayne County Farm Bureau was organized on January 4, 1946, with W. P. Grant as president, Paul Shackelford as secretary, and B. B. Raiford as treasurer.

During 1947, units were organized at Rosewood, Nahunta, Brogden, Grantham, and Pikeville. At the close of a membership drive, 11 units, including a black unit, had been organized with a total of 643 members. Today Wayne County has a total of 4,300 members. Russell Gurley was the first president of the Nahunta Unit.

The Wayne County Farm Bureau was incorporated in 1953 and the Constitution and by-laws were adopted in 1954. Since that time the dues have been increased to \$25 per year in order to expand the Service-to-Member Program.

This program began in 1953 with an insurance program which provided only automobile insurance. It has been expanded to include fire, life, farmer's liability, and hospitalization insurance.

Other services have been added since 1953, such as notary public, tires, disc brakes, antifreeze, chisel points, bailing twine, battery chargers, and lawn mowers all purchased through authorized Farm Bureau dealers.

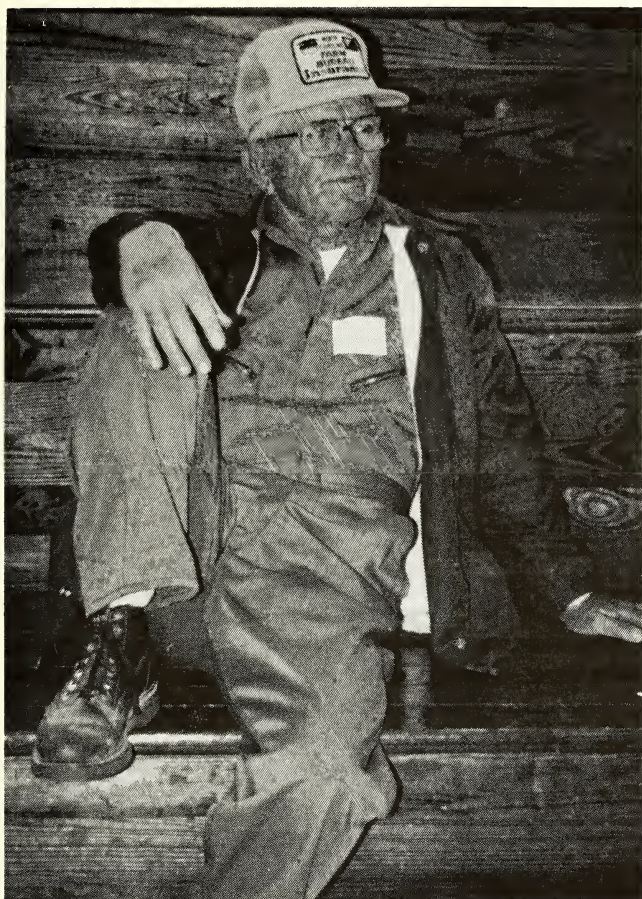
The first county office was opened in December, 1953, in the Tin Warehouse at the corner of John and Beech Streets. The office was moved to 1218 North William Street in April, 1954, and remained there until the Board of Directors approved the purchase of a building at 1601 North William Street in November of 1963.

In 1973, the office was moved to a new and larger building at 2405 North William Street. It includes offices for the insurance agents, staff, and a conference room in which the meetings of the board members are held.

Wayne County Farm Bureau Women have been organized since 1948 and have played an important part in membership drives, project work, and public relations. Mrs. John B. Chase of Eureka was the first chairperson.

There also is a young farmers' and ranchers' program open to all farmers under 30 years of age.

The purpose of the Farm Bureau is to bring together farm families to surface their concerns, speak of those issues which affect them, and solve common problems which otherwise could not be accomplished.



Nahunta unit presidents have been Russell Gurley, Floyd Morris, Avery Sasser, and Russell Corbitt. Elton Wooten is the present unit president. These people automatically serve on the county board of directors. R. A. Sasser is currently on the board of directors for the northern area.

Russell Corbitt, leader in Farm Bureau

Some Nahunta people who have served on the county or State Board are Clara Lee Gurley, women's chairperson, and Russell Corbitt, who has served on the county board of directors for around 23 years and county president for 11 years. He has served on the board of directors of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation for two years and has been a member of the North Carolina State Tobacco Advisory Committee for the last 15 years.

BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scouting existed at Nahunta from 1960 to January, 1990 when the cub scouts did not renew their charter. Having an interest in young boys and a vision of what scouting could mean to their lives in character building and development of strong young men, Hardy Talton was instrumental in organizing a scout troop here. He served as scoutmaster for around eight years and worked with them from 1960 through 1980. Nahunta Grange, as sponsoring organization, furnished a meeting place at the regular Grange Hall or at its building across the road which was originally the Mormon Church. The Grange also helped to finance the troop and furnish adult assistance.

Another scoutmaster, James Godwin, served for around six years. During this time the scouts had numerous service projects. For example, they presented a flag to Nahunta School and planted flowers around the flag pole. They set out azaleas at the Grange Hall and dogwood trees at local churches. For Litter Day, they cleaned the roadside a mile in each direction from the school. This Troop 97 was recognized as the outstanding troop of the year in America of troops sponsored by the Grange. Two scouts, accompanied by James Godwin and Melvin Jones, went to Daytona Beach to receive the award.

This troop of 17 boys also spent a week at the Outer Banks where they worked on merit badges and learned to survive in a storm.

In 1976 Nahunta Troop 97 joined the Tuscarora Council made up of scouts from Wayne, Johnston, and Duplin Counties on a 100-mile pilgrimage to Halifax in celebration of the bicentennial of our country. For a week they hiked during the day and camped at night. Eugene Price of the Goldsboro News Argus covered this pilgrimage extensively. Johnnie Howard

says he especially remembers the trek with blistered feet and sunburns but good food.

The troop often participated in camps at Camp Tuscarora and local camporees. James Godwin quipped, "Scouts learned to cook pork chops and beans all in one pot and enjoy them."

Through these varied activities many earned merit badges. Alvin Godwin became an Eagle Scout with over 32 merit badges and 4 non-required merit badges. He received the coveted God and Country award and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow, an honorary Order of Scouts which one has to be invited to join. David Grimes, who later transferred to a troop in Goldsboro, became an Eagle Scout after he had entered the service. David mentioned being a part of an Indian Dance group in the Order of the Arrow. He remembers being left in unfamiliar woods overnight to find his way out. These experiences helped to build self-confidence and survival skills. Other outstanding scouts who participated extensively and earned many merit badges were Durwin Hawley, John Holland, Larry Overman, and Eddie Sasser.

Numbers of scouts in the troop varied through the years from five to 30 with 1971-72 and 1975-77 being the peak years.

Several other scoutmasters have a part in the history: Buster Bunn, Jimmy Howell, Bruce Newcomb, and Franklin Nichols. The names of Bill Crawford and Johnny Howell often appear as directors along with many supporting parents and adults who encouraged scouting at Nahunta. Often as many as 10 adults served as volunteers.

The last troop at Nahunta was a Cub Scout pack of 17 members which lasted from 1986 to January, 1990. Perhaps some adult with an interest in youth will again catch a vision of the great opportunity scouting offers and revive boy scouting at Nahunta.

GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouting at Nahunta began at Nahunta in February, 1985, with a daisy troop led by Debbie Howell. This troop is for five-year olds and kindergarten girls. Daisy Scouts learn the pledge, do arts and crafts and are introduced to the values of scouting.

In 1986 these scouts moved into a Brownie troop with Debbie Howell as leader and Gail Pierce and Patsy May assisting. This troop has 16 members. Another Brownie troop is led by Debbie Callahan and Donna Barrett. Joan Stafford organized a Daisy troop in 1988. This group and Debbie Howell's Brownie troop meet at Nahunta Friends Church.

A junior troop for girls in grades 4-6 meets in the home of Barbara Moody, their leader. They have participated in Earth Day activities, distributed red ribbons to remind people not to drink and drive, and worked on badges. With money raised through fund-raising activities, they have taken trips to Disney World and Carawinds. One leader recommended that a council at Nahunta would be helpful to coordinate Girl Scout troops.

NAHUNTA FARMERS CLUB

The Nahunta Farmers Club organized in 1949 under the leadership of the school agricultural teacher, Charles Irvin Jones. The 30 plus members began meeting in the agricultural building and later moved to the Grange Hall.

The purpose of the organization was to keep farmers abreast of new methods and materials used in farming and to inform and instruct them of legal matters that affect farmers. Sharing of ideas and fellowship was an important aspect of the meeting.

The club members visited farms that specialized in certain facets of farming. Merle McClenney was a dealer in "Goldsboro for Watson Seed." Merle arranged for the Farmers Club members to visit the Watson Seed Farm in Rocky Mount.

Several deep-sea fishing trips were taken to Harker's Island and Sneed's Ferry. On one occasion the water was extremely rough and one fellow with new dentures became very sick. He grabbed his teeth and said, 'I be dog if I'm going to let these things go overboard.'

It was after these meetings that the fellows began talking about a community volunteer fire department. They continued talking, investigating, and planning until the fire department was a reality. It was Farmers Club members that canvased the community to get pledges and learn the general feeling of the people toward a community volunteer fire department. Some of the Farmers Club officers served as the first fire department officers.

When Charles B. Aycock School was built to serve northern Wayne County, the Nahunta Farmers Club was moved to the Aycock School and served all of northern Wayne Farmers.

VETERANS SCHOOL

Shortly after World War II ended in 1945, the Veterans' Administration set up schools for farmers to help them get established in farming. Before Nahunta had such a school, a car pool of

six enrolled at Black Creek. Then in 1947 a school was established at Nahunta under the auspices of the Agriculture Department. The agriculture teacher, as supervisor of the program, kept records and sent in reports. For

this service, he was paid \$35 a month in addition to his regular salary. Those agriculture teachers were Charlie Jones, followed by Herman Porter, Harry Beard, and Jesse Grimes.

The classes covered farm-related subjects including farm management, livestock and poultry in addition to all crops grown in the area, business and record keeping, sales and marketing, and soil conservation. Some of the instructors were Merle McClenney, John Sasser, George Wayne Aycok, William Taylor and Leslie Hines.

Students attended a two-hour class weekly at night and a farm shop class weekly during the day. The Veterans Administration paid students \$100 a month under the G.I. Bill of Rights. The instructors, in addition to teaching the classes, visited the students and supervised their activities.

At one time at Nahunta there were three veteran instructors who taught the various courses for two classes of about 20 students each. Since there were no veterans' schools in other areas of Northern Wayne, many came from Rosewood, Fremont, Eureka, Patetown and Kenly. Students could attend one year for each year in service - plus one extra year. By the late 50's the schools had been discontinued.

JUNIOR ORDER

On November 1, 1909, a charter was issued to Pinkney Council No. 312, a subordinate Council of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. The Charter has a list of 26 names and then adds "and other."

Meetings were first held upstairs in an old converted store. A barber shop occupied the first floor. Then in the late thirties, the old

Pinkney School house was donated to the order and used briefly for meetings until the building of a new lodge. The first meeting there was in January 1957. All three meeting places were located at Pinkney Crossroads. Later the last building was sold and is presently used as a dwelling.

This organization, noted for virtue, liberty, and patriotism, is a men's fraternal organization. An on-going project since its beginning has been helping support a home for orphans in Lexington, North Carolina. The interest on the money from the sale of the lodge hall is donated annually to this project. An earlier method of raising money for the orphanage was a yearly Christmas auction when the men carried some minor item that brought a big amount when the fun of bidding began.

Through the years, the Junior Order has carried out many community projects. Some outstanding ones have included sponsoring a community baseball team, securing and presenting new American flags to local schools, and supporting scout troops.

One of the most enjoyed projects for many years was the Fourth of July Community Celebration held at Pinkney. Baseball teams made up of players of all ages drew crowds all day long. Even one year a young team played the "oldies." Some remember a parade being a part of the festivities. People brought chairs and lingered for good fellowship and fun along with cool lemonade from the tub. A barbecue dinner and refreshment stands for hot dogs and cold drinks rounded out a day for genuine appreciation of the American way of life.

The fraternity cared for fellow members. Old minutes indicate times when \$.50 a day was paid to a sick "brother." They also provided nursing care when needed, or paid hospitalization when a member was out of work. This orga-

nization was really a true brotherhood at a time when local fraternal organizations were more active. These people needed each other. Perhaps with a coming of more prosperity in the sixties and the advent of more government programs, brotherhoods no longer realized as much the need for interdependence.

With a present membership of eight, Pinkney Council of the Junior Order no longer holds regular meetings, but usually meets annually with several other Councils in the region. But its record shows that it has served a vital role in promotion of an appreciation for virtue and patriotism in the lives of its members and those in the community.

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

NAHUNTA - LITTLE RIVER

Late in the year 1957 and early 1958, the Nahunta Farmers Club members, meeting in the Agriculture Building at Nahunta School, began discussing the need for a fire department to serve the area. From this discussion, a formal meeting was held February 12, 1958. The men decided to proceed with an organization for fire protection in the Nahunta Community and became one of the earliest rural fire departments in Wayne County. Known as Nahunta Fire Department, one department was organized with two stations,



Original Volunteer Fire Department

No. 1 station to be at Nahunta and No. 2 station to be located on Gurley Dairy Road. George Wayne Aycock was elected president and Russell Gurley as secretary-treasurer. The following year Bill Crawford became secretary-treasurer. The directors were as follows: Walton Aycock, Chesbro Fields, Johnnie Howell, Bagley Morris, Mack Pierce, Jasper Sasser, Hardy Talton, Bernice Vaughn, and George Waddell.

Since funds were needed for equipment, a minimum of \$5 per tobacco barn was collected.

In addition, community men solicited donations. These solicitors were as follows: George Wayne Aycock, Raymond Aycock, Walton Aycock, Jesse Grimes, Bill Crawford, Anderson Edgerton, Ralph Edgerton, Herman Grantham, Russell Gurley, Alton Howell, Ollie Howell, Melvin Jones and Charles Lancaster. Also, Bagley Morris, Floyd Morris, Joe Morris, David Odom, Dewey Pate, Oland Peele, Cedric Pierce, Mack Pierce, Worth Pope, Aaron Radford, John Strickland, Connie Stuckey, William Taylor, George Waddell, and Owen Whaley.

Nahunta Station No. 1 was located just back of Nahunta School on a site donated by Russell Corbitt. The building was started in 1959. Firemen cleared the lot and constructed a cement-block building 30 by 40 feet.

One of the earliest training sessions came in 1959 to familiarize 40 members with the use of equipment. Also the barn of W. E. Gurley was burned for a training session.

An early project became the purchase of equipment. The department bought an International truck in 1958 from army surplus for \$150 and converted it into a pumper. Likewise, an army surplus truck was purchased to provide service for Station No. 2. In the winter of 1960, a state dump truck was purchased for \$250 and the body was designed and built by local firemen for a pumper. In 1961 Nahunta Station No. 2 bought a Chevrolet truck for \$150 for a tanker.

The department, made of two stations in 1961, had the following officers: No. 1 Station Chief, George Wayne Aycock; No. 2 Station Chief, James Ray Johnson; president, Jesse Grimes; vice-president, Molton Gurley; secretary-treasurer, Bill Crawford. Assistant chiefs were J. D. Howard, David Odom, Russell Corbitt, Dock Edgerton, Charles Aycock, and J. D. Jones.

The two stations were financed by a donation of around \$200 from the Wayne County Tax Department (first time - 1959). Other funds came from solicitations in the community, fund-raising suppers, turkey shoots, and fish stews. Car I.D. tags were sold and chances sold on a go-cart. Also trees were donated and firemen cut them and dressed the timber for building material for the new station. The Band Patrons' Club also gave a donation of \$500.

In November of 1962, three sets of protective equipment were ordered for each of the two stations. Later each fireman paid one half of the cost of his own clothing and the department paid the other half. Thus all firemen were outfitted with protective clothing.

At Thanksgiving of 1961, Nahunta Station No. 2 began a 1200 sq.ft. building on a 0.3 acre lot, given by Aldon and Clara Lee Gurley and Ethel Hosea. Located on Gurley Dairy Road, the building was constructed at a cost of \$1800 by local firemen except for laying the cement blocks. Until 1964, bi-monthly meetings alternated between the buildings of the two stations.

When discussion began about the purchase of another truck, the firemen recognized the need for having faster response time and covering areas beyond the four-mile limit. Therefore, station No. 1 and Station No. 2 divided and began operating under separate charters. Equipment was divided between the two stations.

NAHUNTA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Since the division in 1964, Nahunta Volunteer Fire Department, the name adopted, has continued to upgrade its equipment. A Ford chassis truck for a tanker was purchased in 1969, a 4-wheel drive Chevrolet for a brush truck in 1973,



Nahunta Volunteer Fire Department

an American-La France pumper in 1977, and a truck in 1981 to replace a cascade trailer. Improvements to the building have included the addition of a third bay, kitchen, and bathrooms in 1971, and addition of brick work and aluminum siding in 1979. A tanker and brush truck have been replaced with a newer model. In 1979 the department qualified for a rating of Class 8 for insurance. At this time, it was recognized as being the first rural fire department in the United States to receive credit for fast dump mobile water supply. Then in 1982 the department was upgraded to Class 7.

In 1975 firemen were given permission to stay overnight at the fire station. High school and college men are the main ones to take advantage of this feature on weekends. They often engage in training sessions. The department

also maintains a training program for junior firemen ages 14-16. When they become 16, they do not have to go through a probation period before becoming full-fledged firemen.

In April, 1983, the department held a 25th anniversary celebration. After serving 17 years as chief, (since the beginning of 1961) George Wayne Aycock resigned in 1978. Jay Howell then became chief, a position he continues to hold. He is currently president of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs. Other officers are Shelton Edgerton and Johnnie Howard, assistant chiefs; Walter Bridgers, president; Anthony Peele, vice-president; and Rudy Sasser, secretary-treasurer. The department currently has 35 members, eight of whom have completed courses at the National Fire Academy in Maryland.

LITTLE RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Little River Volunteer Fire Department

The first officers elected in November, 1964, after the division were as follows: Molton Gurley, president; Bill Fields, vice-president; Bill Crawford, secretary-treasurer; and James Ray Johnson, chief. Bill Crawford served in that capacity for 26 years including years served during the joint operation. James R. Johnson served as chief for 20 years. Directors were Russell Gurley, Kenneth Edgerton, Alex Aycock, David Berry, and George Ferrell. In 1966 the name of Station No. 2 was changed to Little River Fire Department to avoid conflict in receiving and reporting calls.

Since the division, Little River has purchased additional trucks. In 1969, a truck was bought and a body was built by Grady and Wilson at Elroy to replace the original pumper. Again in 1968, a tanker was made from a truck given by Rudolph Sasser. The major addition came in August, 1981, when the first new truck, engine No. 1 and equipment were purchased from Grumman Company for \$67,000. In that same year, the addition of an L-shaped building of 1800 sq. ft. increased the space to 3000 sq. ft. This addition included a kitchen, meeting room, baths, and a new bay to house the new truck. Additional land was also given by Haywood Hosea to increase the lot to 0.75 acre. A generator and portable lights have also been added. Financing of these recent projects has basically been provided through a tax assessment which residents voted on in 1979. In 1982 this amount was around \$10,000.

In 1986 a tanker was bought, and the sign out front was built in 1989. In January, 1990, Little River gained a Class 6 fire rating, thus providing reductions in fire insurance cost. Present officers are Michael Aycock, president; Charles Massengill, vice-president; Phillip Taylor, secretary; David Berry, treasurer; Lester (Peter) Aycock, chief; and Eddie Sasser, assistant chief. The department currently has 27 members.

POLLY WATSON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Since two fire departments did not provide sufficient coverage for the Nahunta area, on December 19, 1975, a group of men in northern Wayne County met to form a fire department for that area of Wayne, Johnston, and Wilson Counties. A tract of land was given by Hubert Scott



Polly Watson Volunteer Fire Department

on which to build the fire station. Since the tract of land is located in the northeastern part of the county on Highway 581, the fire department chose Polly Watson Volunteer Fire Department for its name.

At the second meeting on January 5, 1976, Wayne County's fire marshall met with them to discuss organization. Officers were elected as follows: Lamar Aycock, president; Cecil Evans, vice-president; G. C. Williamson, secretary-treasurer. Other officers included chief, Mickey Waddell; first assistant chief, Ernest Jordan; second assistant chief, Jerry Wells; captain, Allen Aycock; lieutenant, Curtis Wad-

dell; and chaplain, Danny Wells. Board of directors were Cecil Evans as chairman; Hubert Scott, Ed Collier, Lamar Aycock, Clayton Williamson, Lester Waddell, and G. C. Williamson.

The department has a 1976 Ford pumper, a 1980 tanker, and a brush truck which the North Carolina Forestry Division bought from army surplus for the department.

The station has 2 bays, a kitchen, meeting room, office, storage room, and baths.

When the department received its class rating of 8, it and Nahunta Fire Department were the first two in the United States to receive a rating better than class 9. The department now has a class 7 rating. Present officers are Terry Strickland, president; Phillip Aycock, vice-president; Tim Kennedy, secretary; and Allen Aycock, treasurer. The department now has 26 members.

SUMMARY

The challenges never end for fire fighters. Much training and dedication are required to stay abreast of today's changing fire-fighting needs. Through the years firemen have attended fire schools sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Insurance. Since these schools are sponsored annually, a large percentage of the firemen have attended schools and are qualified. Firemen answer calls including brush fires, mobile homes, tobacco barns, or a house fire. They also supply mutual aid to other departments. They meet bi-monthly. Most members have scanners and beepers to aid in quick response to calls.

Well-trained firemen, operating well-maintained equipment, have earned for the residents of the Nahunta Fire districts different clas-

sifications for fire protection. These classes translate into dollars saved on insurance premiums every year for residents. To explain - the lower the number the better the class rating. The tax dollars collected annually in each fire district are used exclusively for operating that particular department. This high level of fire protection offered by the three rural fire departments is a tremendous asset to the Nahunta Community. The departments serve as a source of pride and as a unifying force for community betterment.

LADIES FIRE AUXILIARIES

The ladies in each area, desiring to support the firemen, organized a Ladies Fire Auxiliary. Nahunta Auxiliary was organized in 1974 with Barbara Howard as its first president and Vickie Hare as the current president. Little River Auxiliary was organized in 1979 with Judith Aycock as its first president, followed by Jenny Massengill and Susan Anderson as the current president. Polly Watson Auxiliary was formed in 1976 with Carolyn Waddell as its first president and Kimberly Aycock serving currently.



Ladies Auxiliaries assist firemen

The purpose of the auxiliaries is to help with fire department activities such as fund-raising suppers and family night suppers or parties. They provide help for burned out victims and food and drinks for firemen at large fires.

Through their bazaars and bake sales at suppers and chances on such items as quilts or TVs, they raise money for this support and for donations to the fire departments for special projects. These projects have included such items as purchase of tables and chairs, curtains, and furniture for stations, front door for the station, and air packs.

The auxiliaries each fall sponsor a high school student for the fire princess contest at the Wayne County Fair. Little River has had two contestants to be county winners; namely, Connie Nichols in 1980 and Angie Gurley in 1982.

Over the years the auxiliaries have offered informative and entertaining programs for members and the community. Such programs have been cancer detection, wills, hotline information, flower arranging as well as home safety or self protection. Any lady in the fire district may join the auxiliary even if her husband is not a fireman.

NAHUNTA'S FIRST RESPONDERS

Fremont Rescue and Emergency Medical Services, Inc. began a new service in the Nahunta Community in October of 1989. An advanced life support car equipped with defibulator, oxygen, splints, bandages and other first aid equipment was placed in Nahunta to be used as a quick response vehicle. The Advanced Life Support Car cannot be used to transport patients. Its main purpose is to provide immediate first aid before the arrival of the rescue truck.

The car is manned by Fremont Rescue personnel who live in the Nahunta area, with an Emergency Medical Technician Advanced Life Support certification.

The area served is from Gurley Dairy Road, north along Highway 581 to Polly Watson Crossroads.

RECREATION

Nahunta citizens were, and continue to be, great recreation fans and players. It has been their belief that recreation builds healthy bodies, healthy minds, and good community spirit. Baseball was the main sport - the only sport - for a long time in northern Wayne County. The baseball park was sandwiched behind the old school house and a service station at the Pinkney Crossroads off Highway 581. The park, with its board plank and cinder block bleachers and its chicken wire backstop, witnessed the coming and going of baseball players for over 80 years. Long-time residents and baseball enthusiasts date the park from around the turn of the century. It was definitely in existence in 1909 and the late Hardy Talton stated it was used several years before that.

In the beginning, rumor has it that there were still trees growing in the outfield and the outfielders simply played around them. If a ball hit a tree, they had to wait for it to come down. Several years after the park was first in use, the trees were cut down and the stumps cut out.

Jim Meachen of the Goldsboro News Argus wrote in 1976 "The cries and shouts of young men are still heard on this piece of northern Wayne County land as they toss the horse-hide or now, as time continues to change the face of nearly everything, the cowhide."

Three of the original Pinkney team members were George Pollard, Milford Garriss and Frank Edgerton.

These three also played on the Pikeville semi-pro team. Names of many of the other players have been lost through time.

Fremont, Pikeville, and Pinkney teams battled for supremacy from mid-spring to late fall.

As late as 1976 the Pinkney Diamond was the site of many baseball games including those played in the Johnston County Semi-Pro League and including a big Fourth of July Celebration.

A product of the 1950's Pinkney baseball history, Marion Talton, went on to play professional baseball. He realized his long-term dream in 1964 when he was called up to the major league by the Kansas City Athletics (now Oakland Athletics). A significant memory of his was hitting his first major league homerun in Yankee Stadium.

The players on the last organized team were as follows: Robert Pittman, Gerald Cuddington, Dan Gurley, Danny Kirby, Randy Fields, David Pittman, Bill Holland, Gregory Peele, Dennis Crump-ler, Wayne Pittman, Joel O'Neal, Doyle Whitfield, Roger Harper and Michael Sterling. Larry Sasser was the player-coach. This semi-pro baseball team captured regular season honors and then swept through the playoffs to finish with a season mark of 16-5 in the Johnston County Semi-Pro League.

The Pinkney Ball Diamond exists no more. Its use was discontinued about 1980 and the grounds were landscaped. The old ball diamond is now a beautiful garden planted and kept by Don Morris.

BASKETBALL

In northern Wayne County baseball had no competition from other sports until around 1920 when basketball teams began to be formed. At Nahunta, as in other communities at that time, basketball was played on an open court. The court was on the north side of the school building - between the building and what is now State

Road 1336. Ora Belle Sasser said every time one failed to catch the ball it went into the road.

Basketball was the first team game organized for women. In those days the girls' team, like the boys', had only five players; one center, two guards and two forwards. Elizabeth Smith coached the 1921 girls' team at Nahunta. The players were Sally Lee Peele (Smith), Blanche Pierce (Davis), Martha Griffin, Mamie Howard (Nichols), and Naomi Garris (Justice).

The gym suits for girls were middy blouses made of sateen, very full pants called bloomers that came below the knees, long stockings and high-topped tennis shoes. Nahunta's suits were red and black.

The 1921 boys' team was composed of Clee Davis, Ralph Edgerton, Albert Smith, Robert Griffin, Raymond Fields, Donald Aycock, and Robert Atkinson. Their coach was Earl Pearson.

The Nahunta teams played Pikeville, Eureka, Rosewood and Belfast. There was strong competition between Nahunta and both Rosewood and Pikeville. In those early days the visiting team brought the referee and Rosewood always brought Roscoe Johnson who had sisters playing on the Rosewood team. Nahunta players thought he called the game in favor of Rosewood.

On one occasion Mrs. Eugenia Aycock told the teams that if they would beat the Pikeville team she would treat them to a banana split at the Candy Kitchen. They won the game and the treat. One of the boys who was sweet on the girls' coach told her she didn't have to have her banana split that he would buy her a whole banana.

The teams had practice and intramurals on frozen ground oft-times, for the basketball season lasted from November to late March. In very cold weather some of the women spectators

stood inside the school building and watched the game from the windows.

The first indoor games were those played for championship. Those were played in a tobacco warehouse with the floor marked off for a court. Later the championship games were played in the Wayne County Community Building in Goldsboro. It was not until the school gymnasium was built in 1949 that basketball practice and home games were played indoors. Even so basketball was fun for players and spectators then and now.

Through the years, basketball has continually been supported by Nahunta residents. Nahunta School consistently had outstanding boys' and girls' teams whose games were followed enthusiastically by spectators.

In 1985, a church league was formed with four teams participating in games played at Norwayne Junior High School. When an electronic score board was purchased through a fund-raising drive, the games were moved to the Nahunta gymnasium in 1986. Presently games are played four nights a week from December to the first of March with six to eight teams participating. Entry fee is \$300 per team which is paid by the churches or players. No admission is charged. Championship and runner-up trophies are given for the regular season winners and for winners in the tournament which follows the regular season.

CHURCH LEAGUE SOFTBALL

A church league was organized in 1966. Again the late Hardy Talton spearheaded the planning and organization. Albert Pierce and Jimmy Mitchell worked with him as did others.

Albert and Jimmy turned every stone necessary to provide lights for the night games

played at Nahunta School. The community first purchased some used lighting equipment and Stackhouse put up the lights. Those lights were lower than standard ball diamond lights and the poles were not very substantial. Getting the light bulbs replaced was a chore that nobody wanted and few people accepted. So a few years later the lights were replaced with standard ball field lights. and again Stackhouse put them up. The young men worked hard, made many trips and cleared the red tape connected with public outdoor lighting. Albert said, "I loved to play ball so well I would have done anything necessary to get those games started."

A board fence was made and advertisements were painted on it to help defray expenses. Bleachers were built to accommodate the spectators.

There were four church teams that first year. They were Pleasant Hill, Ebenezer Methodist, Pinkney Baptist and Pike's Crossroads.

The games were supported by the Community and interest grew. There have been as many as eleven teams in a season. At present the ten churches with teams are the following: Pinkney, Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Grove, Pineview Baptist, Mount Carmel; also Saint Joseph, Pikeville Pentecostal Free Will Baptist, Nahunta Friends, Pike's Crossroads, Freedom Baptist, and Abundant Life.

The churches have both men and women teams. The individual churches or players pay an entrance fee of \$150 annually for each team to help defray expenses. There is also a concession stand and the profit goes toward expense of lights, umpires, and trophies. Churches take turns in seeing that the field is marked off and in manning the concession stand.

The current officers are Joe Rollins, president; Franklin Nichols, vice-president;

Elizabeth R. Fleming, treasurer. The treasurer sees that the concession stand is stocked and that bills are paid.

A player must be either a church member or regular Sunday School attender.

Any summer evening, from May to around August, an average of around 150 people of all ages gather to support their team and to fellowship.

At the end of the regular season, a tournament is held. Trophies are given to the winning team and runners-up in the regular season and in the tournament.

LITTLE LEAGUE SPORTS

Even though Little League sports had not been organized in 1952, early coaches started out with pick-up teams. Dobie Howell, for one, coached young boys in the Nahunta Community. Some of the players on these teams were Wilton Howell, Marion Talton, Billy Anderson, and Buster Lewis.

Mr. Hardy Talton deserves much credit for taking an interest in young boys and using his time and money in helping to organize Little League teams.

Billy Anderson remembers Mr. Hardy Talton asking someone to work in his place in tobacco so he could play ball for his community team. Such interest as this in baseball and in youth prompted many individuals through the years to support their athletic teams. Including the names of all who have coached or provided rides or equipment would be impossible for truly Little League sports has included countless people in the Nahunta Community. Often fathers helped coach their child's team.

Melvin Jones, Sam Holland, and Jasper Sasser were early coaches when Nahunta teams played different communities in the county as were Russell Gurley and Kenneth Edgerton.

From these early beginnings, teams have emerged for all ages for boys and some ages for girls.

BASEBALL FOR BOYS



Wayne County Championship - 1965

Front Row - L-F: David Grimes, Ray Howell, David Fields, Junior Daughtry, Coach, Eugene Sasser, Gregory Peele, Bill Holland; Middle Row: David Pittman, Frankie Aycock, Randy Fields, Danny Kirby, Robert Pittman, Sammy Sasser, Royce Aycock; Back Row: Jesse Grimes, Assistant Coach Willie Aycock and Hardy Talton who helped to get it all started.

Early Babe Ruth ball teams were made up of community teams. Little League was organized throughout the county by Hardy Talton and Junior Daughtry. At first, the age group 9-12 was called regular Little League. Later it became known as Dixie Youth (ages 9-12). In 1982 since the other age groups for 13, 14-15, and 16-18 year-old boys were already Babe Ruth, the younger group changed to Babe Ruth rules county-wide and became known as Bambino Babe Ruth. Junior Daughtry and Franklin Nichols helped to make this transition.

Junior Daughtry has provided leadership with different age groups and different coaches through the years. The records of his teams' successes have been impressive. In three different years - 1965, 1976, and 1978 - his teams won Wayne County championships. Franklin Nichols also helped coach the 1978 winning team.



Wayne County Championship - 1978

Front Row L-R: Ricky Richardson, Dwayne Nichols, Keith Parnell, Wayne Barrett, Jeffrey Berry; Middle Row: Mark Radford, Scotty Wells, Andy Bunn, Bobby Artis, Darrell Ford; Back Row: Coaches Franklin Nichols, Junior Daughtry, Allen Cuddington

In 1982 and 1983 at the start of Bambino Babe Ruth for boys ages 9-12, Junior Daughtry and Franklin Lane were coaches. Their 1983 Western Wayne team won State Championship at Louisburg College. Members of that team from Nahunta were Michael Odom, pitcher; Michael Lane, second base; and Freddie Gooding, centerfield. In 1984 David Earl Lewis began coaching this age group followed by Stan Matthews in 1986. Matthews' team won state championship in 1990 and played in the Southeast Region in Florida.

TERMITE BASEBALL FOR BOYS

Termite provides training for boys 7-11 years of age. These teams have always been made up of community boys playing other communities. They had been playing for several years when Peter Aycock and Billy Anderson took over the coaching.

During their years of coaching from 1974-75 until 1980 they produced good teams. In fact, in 1975 Nahunta Termites won county championship. Then in 1980 when Aycock and Anderson moved up to Little League with their children, that left the termites without a coach.

Hardy Talton stepped back in the picture and made a visit to Franklin Lane. When Franklin told him he didn't have the time nor the money for equipment, Mr. Hardy had the answer. He took Franklin to his barn where he had stored plenty of equipment from earlier teams. That year, 1980, 60 boys tried out to play Termite ball. Franklin coached for two years before moving up to Bambino.

Randy Fields and Ray Taylor as present coaches produced a team that was runner-up in the county in 1990.

T - BALL

Beginning in 1987 Steve Hawley reorganized T Ball for 5-8 year olds and coached. The eight-year-olds can play with the Termite team if they are good enough. This age group is also made up only of children from Nahunta. At the end of the season, the teams usually have a cookout. In 1990 there was one team. These games are played on Saturday at the Nahunta School ball diamond.

GIRLS' BABE RUTH SOFTBALL

Prior to 1986, there was no league for girls' softball in the county. Now there are teams for three ages: 9-12, 13-15, 16-18. When the league was organized, Northern Wayne had a team for girls ages 13-15 coached by Bruce Thomas and a team for girls 12 and under coached by Larry Sasser. The first year, 1986, both Northern Wayne teams earned the right to play in the Southeast Regionals in Mississippi.

The winning record for the 13-15 age group has been quite impressive. For five years they have won a berth in the Southeast Region in the United States. Deana Sasser has played on these winning teams.

In 1989 Michael Aycock coached a team of 16-18 year-old girls which finished third in Eastern State and third in Southeast Region.

The 1990 team finished second in Eastern State and third in the Southeast Region.

BASKETBALL

Community basketball for boys and girls was organized by Franklin Lane and Allen Cuddington

at Fremont Youth Council. The teams were divided into ages 9-12 and 13-15.

Games were played on Saturday with the proceeds going to the Norwayne Booster Club. In 1986 Pinkney boys' basketball team were the championship in the Norwayne Junior High Community League. John Lewis, Michael Lane, Chris Kearney, Ashley Horne, Freddie Gooding, and Ray Smith were on that team.

Debbie Howell has helped coach a junior basketball team for girls ages 9-12 from 1987 to 1990, assisting Wayne Sasser for two years and Greg Pope in 1990. This team plays other teams from feeder schools to Norwayne on Saturdays in the winter. In 1990 the team came in second in the league.

COMMUNITY FLAG FOOTBALL

Community flag football was organized in 1979 by Franklin Lane and Allen Cuddington for ages 7-9. Its purpose was to train players for the Little Falcons team of 9-12-year-olds.

SUMMARY

Through these sports for youth, many have received valuable training. All programs serve as training grounds for school teams later plus discipline, character building, enjoyment, and fellowship.

In addition to helping train future athletes, many Nahunta citizens have helped build the football field and obtain bleachers at Norwayne Junior High School and get lights for the football field at Charles B. Aycock.

The benefits of Little League sports activities are indeed far reaching.

NAHUNTA SWIM CLUB

The Nahunta Community Swim Club was organized and met on January 4, 1973. The officers and board of directors were Gene Edgerton, Margaret Pierce, Hardy Talton, Bobby Bunn, Peggy Gurley and Earl Davenport.



Nahunta Citizens have enjoyed the Swim Club since 1973

The Club purchased 3.2 acres of land from Hyrum Maples for the pool site.

Roy Hutchinson and Earl Davenport prepared the by-laws. Parnell Construction of Fayetteville built the pool.

The pool opened on Saturday June 1, 1974. Present were pool members, officers, directors, and Earl Davenport from the Wayne County Extension Service and Robert Stevenson and Jimmy Edmundson from the Branch Bank.

In 1985 the Swim Club took over the maintenance of the Little League ball diamond that adjoins the pool property. The backstop from the Pinkney ball diamond was moved to the Little League diamond and a chain-link fence was put up around it. Larry Sasser is in charge of scheduling the ball diamond.

In 1988 the Swim Club purchased an additional acre of land from the Nahunta Grange.

In the early 1980's a tennis court was made on the Grange property near the swimming pool. Hyrum Maples directed the work and Marion Talton helped pour the cement. The tennis courts are open to anyone who wants to play. There are no scheduled matches.

Many volunteer hours of work have gone into planning, developing, and maintaining the successful recreation which many people enjoy.

The present directors of the Swim Club are: Martha Crawford, Ben Claiborne, Beth Croom, John Holland, Bill Claiborne, and Terry Worrell. The present officers are Carl Maples, president; Johnny Howard, vice-president; Bettina Howard, secretary; and Jane Thomas, treasurer.

The pool usually opens the first Saturday in June. It is open Monday through Saturday from 1:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. and on Sunday from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. A life guard is on duty during the open hours. The pool closes on Labor Day.

The maximum membership is 200. Members buy a membership share which can be sold when they desire to drop membership. In addition, they pay an annual fee.

D & H SADDLE CLUB

The D & H Saddle Club was organized May 23, 1967, with 51 members. The officers elected were as follows: Charles Aycock, president;



Horse lovers gather from far and near

Earl Hinson, vice-president; JoAnn Hinson, secretary-treasurer. The group met at Doby Howell's Stables. They cleared land for a riding ring behind the stables and fenced a show ring. Riders met there on the weekends to practice the events sponsored in the horse shows that were beginning to be popular in this area.

The Club was incorporated May 27, 1969, with 28 members. They continued at the same location until January, 1986. They then relocated to the present site leased from Bill Fields on the Gurley Dairy Road. A house trailer was purchased and fixed up for a clubhouse. A riding ring was prepared and fenced, lights were added, and the club was in business. The first show in this location was March 9, 1986.

The D & H Saddle Club is a non-profit organization for the sole purpose of family entertainment.

Horse shows are held on the second weekend in each month except December, January, and February. Each show begins with the presentation of the flags. The flags include the United States Flag, the North Carolina Flag, and the Saddle Club Flag.

The club encourages family participation with riding ponies and horses. The club has cookouts and work days to keep the ring and surrounding areas clean. They also do any needed repairs. It is a well-kept area and the club is proud of it.

At present there are 149 members. The present officers are: Franklin Woodard, president; Charles Aycock, vice-president; Maureen Lancaster, secretary, and Sandy Woodard, treasurer.

The public is invited to attend the shows anytime.

GATHERING PLACES

In the early years before the coming of automobiles, families visited in the community for entertainment. With small children taken by the hand or carried on the back, they walked to a neighbor's house on Saturday afternoons or at night to spend bedtime. Tobacco tyings, hog killings, "settin-ups" at the death of a person brought families and neighbors together. Tobacco barning time provided an occasion for much conversation and watermelon eating. Even the youngest were included as they played close by on a pallet.

Churches have always been a gathering place as people linger on the grounds after Sunday morning worship to "howdy" and ask "How are you?" Quarterly meetings, picnics on the grounds or at some nearby lake, along with all kinds of fellowship meals are occasions for great fellowship. And what about all those homecomings!

Of course school activities have always brought people together as parents go to P.T.A. (now P.T.O.) meetings to see little Johnny perform. Then there have been junior and senior class plays (in earlier years the Sauline Players) and commencement activities. Earlier these included weekend festivities, field day, speaking contests, and plays.

All the athletic events especially have drawn crowds of people of all ages. The Pinkney Fourth of July celebration, sponsored by the Junior Order for years was the main attraction of the summer.

Now all the Little League, Bambino, and Termite teams draw crowds as do the church softball and basketball leagues.

Earlier, since people didn't have as many places to go meetings, of organizations like the Grange, Junior Order, and the Extension Homemakers Club were centers for fellowship, projects for community betterment and individual growth. Today many organizations still serve these same purposes.

Perhaps for good ole' friendly fellowship, nothing has matched that provided by the country stores that dotted the community earlier. Here attenders kept up with what was going on in the neighborhood, how crops were faring, or how to solve the world's problems. Each person had his own story to tell though it might have been repeated dozens of times.



What stories have been told at country stores!

With the diminished number of country stores, some businesses serve as gathering places for like purposes. But with cars today, people visit places beyond the community like gathering at a near-by Pizza Inn after choir practice or youth meeting.

The community swimming pool has replaced "ye ole swimming hole" in some creek or river where tired young people cooled off after a hot day of barning tobacco. Today mothers will sun at the pool and chat while their children enjoy the water, snacks, and music from the juke box. At night teenagers and families congregate.

For racing fans, the Wayne County Dirt Racing Tracks, built in the spring of 1990, attract spectators and participants on Friday evenings.

Then for horse lovers, there are the monthly horse shows on third Saturday evenings at D & H Saddle Club.

But the main gathering place for horse enthusiasts since it began in 1963 has been Dobie Howell's Stables. This place, one-of-a-kind in Eastern North Carolina and one of the few in the state, has a regular horse auction.

The stables look like a weathered sheet-metal warehouse. The horses are paraded in at a walk, a trot, or occasionally at a stiff canter across 65 feet of dirt floor sprinkled with hay. Forty horses on average are auctioned each Friday night, sometimes more.

"Bring 'em on, boys, let's go," says Bill Howell, the auctioneer, over the microphone calling for the first horses. "Bring 'em on."

The people head inside the corral. They line the walls or take a seat with friends and family and the auction begins.

This Friday evening event involves three generations of the family of Dobie Howell, the ole' horse trader, and brings together community people and "foreigners" for an evening of good excitement and fellowship.

People through the years have gravitated to places where those of like interests congregate. These gatherings places have provided a place for friends to air opinions, seek advice, or just relax and build bonds of friendship among citizens of Nahunta community.

NAHUNTA EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS CLUB MEMBERS

Helen Aycock	Bertha Morris
Lucille Aycock	Elizabeth Overman
Zora Bunn	Lillie Mae Overman
Agnes Corbitt	Jean Peele
Delma Coston	Jean Pierce
Evelyn Crawford	Margaret Pierce
Lib Davis	Elizabeth Pittman
Louise Edgerton	Sarah Pittman
Clara Lee Gurley	Beulah Price
Doris Gurley	Elsie Price
Mozelle Gurley	Lucille Radford
Alma Holland	Beverly Rhodes
Tempie Jones	Alice Sasser
Joyce Lancaster	Ora Belle Sasser
Marian Martin	Mildred Talton
Madie Mayo	

HONORARY MEMBERS

Pearl Pierce	Winnie Peele
Flossie Johnson	Olive Whaley

The Heart of Nahunta



*With its
Schools
Churches
Businesses
Homes*

*But most important
of all
Its People.....*



*Living, Loving,
Sharing, Caring*

